



THE FIRST WORD

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

In the heart of the city since 1831

March 9, 2011

Issue #430

Sign Ideas?

One block south of our church is the busiest intersection in St. Joseph County, at Main and Lincolnway; 110,000 cars pass there on an average day (and you thought traffic was bad where *you* live!).

We have a sign, facing north, that catches some of that huge traffic – but it has limited space, and can say very little. And I am unimaginative when it comes to the sign.

We have this marvelous advertisement space, which we use ineffectively – and it is my fault.

First; Can YOU think of something to say on behalf of the church, to invite people in? What would catch their eye, intrigue them – and no, we do *not* want to mention our Kool-Aid. It has to be brief...

Get your ideas to the office (333 North Main, 46601, 233 - 9463).

Second; think and pray about a larger sign, one that scrolls, a sign that has lights, shows time and temperature, and can – gasp! – have more than five or six words on it. We priced one out, and it was \$14,000 – the lowest price we could find for the kind of sign we would love to have. But with our budget, you know we do not have the money (we cut some more, no staff increases, and hope and faith fueling our final number). A modern sign can tell more, and maybe even bring more people in to at least check us out.

God is good – all the time! This is another way to tell that story.

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

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

TAKE ALL GOD PROMISES

“I will never forget my mother’s concise paraphrase of Malachi 3:10. The actual Bible text begins with the words ‘Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse’ and ends with ‘I will...pour out so much blessing that,’ in effect, ‘you will be embarrassed over your lack of space to receive it.’ But my mother’s paraphrase was this: ‘Give all God asks and take all God promises.’”

[Samuel Dickey Gordon]

“Here is what God is saying in this verse: ‘My dear child, I still have floodgates in heaven, and they are still in service.... I opened them for Moses, and the sea parted. I opened them for Joshua, and the Jordan River was stopped. I opened them for Gideon, and the armies of the enemy fled. And I will open them for you—if you will only let Me.

““On My side of the floodgates, heaven is still the same rich storehouse as always. The fountains and streams still overflow and the treasure-rooms are still bursting with gifts. The need is not on My side but on yours. I am waiting for you to ”test me in this.“ But you must first meet the condition I have set to ”bring the whole tithe into the storehouse“

[Mal. 3:10], and thereby give Me the opportunity to act.”

[Streams in the Desert, L. B. Cowman; edited by James Reimann]

GOODWILL DONATIONS

Remember, you can bring your Goodwill Donations to the Church. For each full box we give to Goodwill, they give us \$5.00 vouchers, which we give to the Upper Room residents when they successfully graduate and need to set up house-keeping.

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

THE FIRST GOSPEL

We are so pleased to announce a Bible study of the book of Mark. The book shares many of the stories of Christ and his teachings in a very succinct and readable manor.

“Doc” Rushing, a recent attendee of our church, will be teaching the course on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Doc is a recently retired trucker who has previously been a teacher in some Christian colleges, as well as a pastor in some small churches.

The class will meet in a room to be announced from March 6 to May 22. Please sign up for the course in the Gathering Room on Sunday morning or by calling Helen Banas at 277-2139.

SOMETHING NEW

How about instead of giving up something for Lent you try taking on a new challenge. From 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. each Thursday during Lent and again in the evening from 6:30 p.m. until 7:15 p.m. we will have a prayer and meditation time in the Chapel. This will be a quiet time given to communicating with God. We will meet together and have a short prayer time to get us started. This will be followed by a brief discussion with some suggestions about how to meditate. The rest of the time will be spent praying privately and meditating. **(Bring your Bibles)**

Why not give this a try??? Just come to the Chapel starting on March 10th at either 11:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. and spend time with other Christians and with God.

Mary Gergesha, Leader of meditation period

FEBRUARY 2011 MISSION TALLIES

Food Pantry: For the month of February, the Food Pantry served 311 families, representing 1,071 individuals. 21.4% of those served were new for the month of February.

Soup Kitchen: 787 people were served and 665 carry-out bags were given away for a total of 3,063 cups of soup served in February.

Upper Room: 17 residents at the end of February (16 men and 1 woman).



KID'S PRAISE MUSICAL CAMP Summer of 2011 - 18th Anniversary (Date T.B.A.)

Once again under the direction and leadership of Diana Green, Cindy Adamsson and a host of talented adults and Junior Counselors, children Kindergarten through high school will meet together 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 for one week to create a musical that will be shared during both worship services at First Church that Sunday! Each year is unique to itself and this year's promises to TELL THE MISSION EXPERIENCES of some of our own Kid's Praisers. Watch for more info in April!!!!!!!

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
Dylan Mayers - Family concerns	Wayne Jackson - Health concerns
Barbara Dobson - Health concerns	Ron Florey - Health concerns
Mary Lou Gordon - Health concerns	Lynne Loughlin - Health concerns
John Dake - Health concerns	
Bill Easterbrook (David Easterbrook's father) - 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
Melvena Stenger	Betty Fisk	Maxine Jones	Jeanette Koehler
Hannah Messersmith	Margaret Wickizer		

Additionally pray for:

Our Bishop Mike
Our District Superintendent, Cindy

Our Church
Our Church Staff

Our Pastor Mary



the



(TIME CHANGE)

Remember to set your clocks ahead Saturday night, March 12th, before you go to bed, so your not late for church on Sunday, March 13th.

FIVE (5) LESSONS ABOUT THE WAY WE TREAT PEOPLE

Submitted by Gene Stroes

This will be a five part submission.

1 - First Important Lesson - Cleaning Lady

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one:

"What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

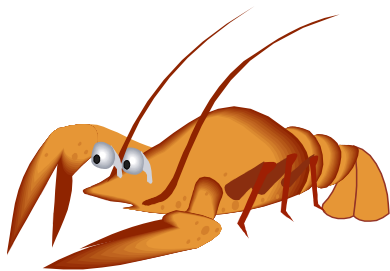
Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50's, but how would I know her name?

I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

"Absolutely," said the professor.. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say "hello.."

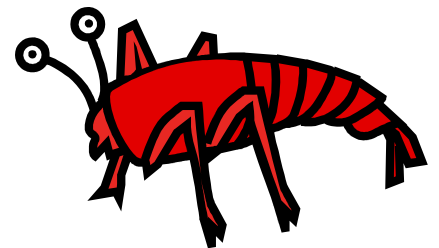
I've never forgotten that lesson.. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

Watch for the second lesson on March 23.



CRAWFISH BOIL

April 29, 2011
5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Social Hall



First United Methodist Church is partnering with Episcopal Church of St. James and St. Augustine Catholic Church in this wonderful event to raise money. The money collected will be split between the following three ministries: Civil Rights Heritage Center, St. Margaret's House, and the Upper Room.

In order to make this event run more smoothly, there will be separate dinner sessions. The tickets will cost \$22.00 each. At the time you purchase your tickets, you will need to specify if you will be attending the 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. dinner or the 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. dinner. The dinner will consist of traditional Cajun favorites like gumbo, jambalaya and much more. Entertainment will be provided at both sessions!

If you would like to volunteer to be a Dessert Coordinator for the Crawfish Boil, please contact David Easterbrook. For more information on the event or to purchase tickets, you may contact David Easterbrook at (574) 232-0475.

The First Word is published bi-monthly by:

First United Methodist Church

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South Bend, IN 46601

Phone: 574-233-9463

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Check out the website:

www.firstumcsb.org

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A GREETING FROM THE CELTIC MUSICIANS



*We're on this Earth together,
And if we would be brothers,
Fight not just on your own behalf,
But for the sake of others.*

**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

