



# THE FIRST WORD

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

In the heart of the city since 1831

June 29, 2011

Issue #437

## NEWS FROM THE UPPER ROOM

First of all, I would like to thank those who so generously contributed to the rail offering a couple of Sundays ago for our program. Our program has been able to welcome 26 new residents since the start of the year. We currently have 17 men and 2 women in the program, with a couple of more expected to join us in the coming days. In general there has been more demand for housing this summer than in past ones, most likely due to the continued economic difficulties with which our community and nation are struggling.

Although not all of those applying meet our criteria, we have been blessed to be able to offer assistance to many who do. A few residents who have returned to us after being on their own for a while have been greatly impressed with the physical changes to the living space completed in the fall of last year. The air conditioning has especially been appreciated in these past weeks that have been so warm.

Six of our residents have joined the Church since January, a wonderful tribute to the welcome they have felt from other church members and church ministries. We have also received some donations from other churches in the community who have come to value our ministry. Our board is continuing to “get the word out” to other agencies and churches as we look for those who could sponsor a resident in the program while they obtain employment and gain more independence.

If you think you might know of someone through your own contacts who might be able to sponsor a resident, please give me a call so I could invite them to tour our program and help spread the good news about what we are able to do. If you would ever want a tour yourself or have questions, please feel free to give me a call as well. Addictions related problems increase during periods of high unemployment and it is those in early recovery who are most susceptible to relapse. Our program offers a chance for recovering persons to have a safe haven at the end of each day that supports their hopes of living a full, responsible, and independent life.

With gratitude from all you have helped,

Sincerely,

John Jung-Zimmerman, M.Div.  
Director

**Worship Schedule**

**Worship, Leeper Park**  
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  
T.B.A.  
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?**

**MONEY IS IMPORTANT IN TWO WAYS**

“Jesus spoke a great deal about money—and often with the kind of humor contained in the following story.

“A prairie farmer appeared at a bank asking for a loan of one dollar! He acknowledged that it was customary to provide collateral for any loan and produced a ten thousand-dollar saving bond. The bond was deposited in the bank vault until the loan was repaid. A year later the farmer reappeared. He renewed the loan, paying the interest on the first year, a nickel and two pennies—seven cents! This happened for several years until finally the bank manager, consumed with curiosity, approached the farmer. ‘We are quite happy to make this loan but I must ask why you want it. After all, we are holding ten thousand for you. Why would you want to borrow one dollar?’ To which the farmer replied, ‘Do you know how much you folks would charge me per year for a safety deposit box for that bond?’

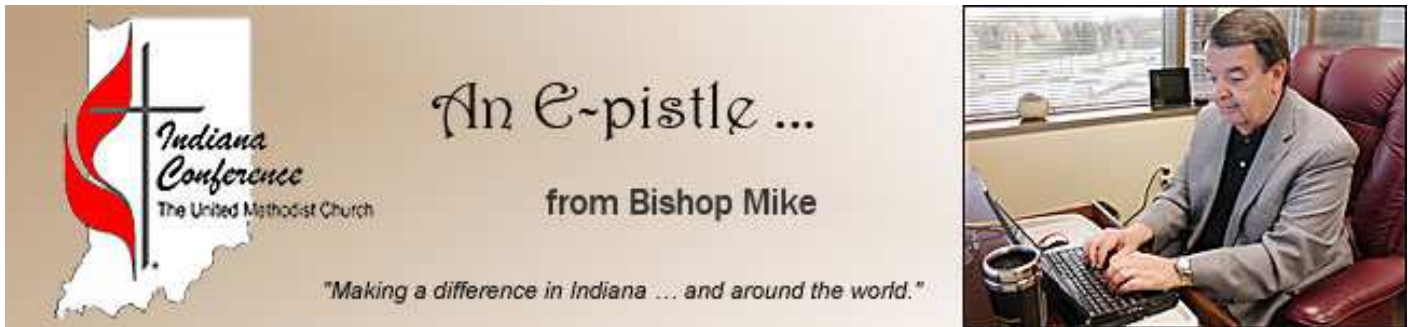
“In many of his parables, Jesus commended those who showed that kind of brightness and imagination with money.” [56 Devotions On Short Notice, Robert A. Wallace]

Why is that? Jesus repeatedly makes two points about money: 1) It plays an important role in our life. 2) It plays an important role in building and maintaining our relationship with God. In both of those ways, Jesus recommends that we use money wisely.

Herb Miller

**BACKGROUND CHECKS**

Don't forget to fill out and return your Background Check authorizations if you work with the children or the elderly on behalf of the church. We have only received a small handful to date. If you are working with the infants, children, or youth, on Sunday mornings or during Kids Praise, you absolutely must complete one (even if you have done so in the past). Additionally, if you are on the Visit Team and visit the elderly, you need to fill one out, as well. Thank you!



## WE'RE NUMBER ONE

If you attended the Annual Conference Session earlier in June at Ball State University, you heard lots of statistics and numbers thrown around. Many good reports contained good news about our numbers, financially and otherwise.

One number in particular which I want to applaud is our “percentage of worship attendance compared to our membership.” That number represents the average worship attendance divided into our membership – and thus it means “On any given Sunday/weekend of worship, how many of our members are present?” Obviously worship attendance also includes some visitors, and some of our members are traveling and attending worship elsewhere, so it is not a perfect statistic. But I believe it is an important one.

The Indiana Conference now ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in terms of worship attendance of all the Annual Conferences in the United States, with an average of 119,800 in attendance; we also rank 10<sup>th</sup> in membership with a total of 201,497 members at year-end 2010, and we rank 1<sup>st</sup> in attendance percentage with 59.45 percent.

So, we are number one among the Annual Conferences in the U.S. in terms of attendance percentage.

It is nice to be number one in anything, and this is a statistic which is especially important as a measurement of vitality and faithfulness. Let me put that in local church terms: If a church has 400 members and 200 are in worship attendance on average, that is clearly a stronger sign of vitality than if only 100 of those 400 members are in worship attendance. The Indiana Conference statistics are a sum total of all our congregations and their statistics, so having an attendance percentage of nearly 60 percent says to me that we have a lot of vital congregations with faithful members and friends who attend worship regularly.

How does your local church measure up? Do you consistently have over half of your membership in attendance? Is the trend for that percentage going up? How can you encourage your members and friends to be more faithful and consistent in attendance? I know it is summer and people are traveling, but do you encourage your members to attend worship elsewhere while they are on the road?

If worship is an essential part of the life of any congregation (and I believe it is), then let's keep encouraging one another to be faithful in attending worship. Hebrews 10:24-25 puts it in this way in these two different versions:

*Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NRSV)*

*Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do, but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching. (THE MESSAGE)*

## 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	Will Johnston - Health concerns
Jeremy Martin - Special needs	David Case - Health concerns
Dylan Mayers - Family concern	Betty J. Byers - Health concerns
Tom & Virginia Daugherty - Loss	Nadine Corse - Health concerns
Vicki Loughlin & Family - Loss	Maria Dattilo - Health concerns
Ron Florey - Health concerns	Mary Lou Gordon - Health concerns
Mary Jo Beemer - Health concerns	
Dan Perry (Betty Haines' Brother) - 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

**Additionally pray for:**

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

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## SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

On June 16, Vicki Loughlin's only sibling, Mark Alan Daugherty, passed away. He had been hospitalized for leukemia and died at the hospital. Vicki and Mark's parents are Tom and Virginia Daugherty. Due to their ages, they were unable to make the trip to Richmond, VA where Mark's wife and sons live. There will be an internment and memorial service for Mark, here in South Bend. Please keep Vicki and her family in your prayers.

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## ORGANIST OPENING

We have had three candidates express interest in our Organist position. Two of them have made direct application, and we have interviews scheduled. One of them is working out of the country for the summer, and our interview will therefore be via SKYPE. Two of them are highly qualified, with very different backgrounds. This has been an exciting and quite enjoyable process. I will give you more information as we have it. I am confident that we will have someone in place by fall.

Wishart Bell  
Director of Music

## NEW MEMBERS

The following people all joined South Bend First United Methodist Church on June 12, 2011:

Douglas D'Agostino

David Breske

Bob Humphrey

Judy Humphrey

Pastor Bob Lewis

John Manchow

Jerri Oesch

Eileen Wakefield

Devin Williams

Please make a point of introducing yourself and welcoming them to our church.

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## IGNITE YOUTH WEEKEND: July 13-16, 2011

The goal is to IGNITE a fire in the hearts of students, and to equip those students to be a light in the community by developing an emphasis on: 1) Equal emphasis on effective service and spiritual growth. 2) Fostering an ongoing relationship between participant churches and local homeowners. 3) Creating a buzz in the community about the movement of the United Methodist Church.

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## FOOD PANTRY

**The Food Pantry is in dire need of money, plastic bags, and donations of food and toiletries to fill those bags. The kids are out of school for the summer, so we especially need peanut butter, jelly, tuna, macaroni & cheese, canned meat, canned chili, beef stew, etc.**

**Remember you can support the Food Pantry year around. It doesn't have to be only when we feature them for our rail offering.**

The First Word is published bi-monthly by:

**First United Methodist Church**

**333 North Main Street**

**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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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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



*Always remember to forget the things that made you sad. But never forget to remember The things that made you glad.*

**Join us for Worship at Leeper Park  
Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and hear the  
Celtic Musicians play.**



Kids' Praise Musical Camp presents

**L. O. L. (Love Ot Loud)**

The camp will be held at First Church August 1-7! It's open to those who've completed Kindergarten through High School. This year's theme will delve into ways we can be the hands and feet of Christ in service to one another, challenging us all to hear our call and reply like the hymn "*Here I Am, Lord*". But wait - There's More! One of the new twists this year is updating and communicating via the web! Not only will the church's website offer updates, but Markus Jamison is working on a Kids' Praise Facebook page! KOOEL!