



THE FIRST WORD

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

In the heart of the city since 1831

September 7, 2011

Issue #442

MAKING CHOICES

All of our lives we make choices based on our values. These change as we grow older year by year. One of the roles of the Sunday School is to help us make wise choices based upon our knowledge of scripture and the lives of people of scripture.

The Education Commission has worked hard to provide many and varied experiences to help our church family grow in Christian virtues. When our children are very young, we provide a nursery for their care and opportunities for Christian nurturing. Formalized instruction begins with pre-school children from 3 to 5 years. When children enter first grade, they meet in the Promised Land on the second floor with other children through sixth grade. Each month, they study about the same character through drama, puppets, food, art, activities, and other media.

Our youth spend time in Bible Study on Sunday morning and devote time to fun and fellowship on Sunday evening or the weekend. This year Mr. Frey said some new programs were in the planning. Cathy Johnson helps to coordinate the program.

The adult classes: We have 4 opportunities for the adults to meet and study together (3 classes and a Bible Study).

“This and That” (young adults), “Merrimates” (a class of couples and singles), “Potpourri Class” (mainly persons over 65). They all utilize a variety of materials, learning mediums and topics.

We currently have a Bible Study on the book of Acts. There is much discussion in each class. These classes are on the second floor. Come and see.

You are most welcome in any class. All of our Sunday School Classes are from 10:00 to 11:00.

From time to time we offer a formal Bible Study for the whole church. From early October to late November, we are offering an 8-week study of an overview of the Old Testament. In February through April we will study an introduction to the New Testament. Call Pauline Medhurst (277-2726) to register for the class or to request more information.

The Education Commission also prepares a Lenten and Advent Devotional. This year watch for a new theme.

To accomplish all these things, WE NEED YOUR HELP: If you can help in any of the following ways, please contact Pauline Medhurst at 277-2726: Teachers, Substitute Teachers, Helpers, Nursery Aides, Pray for Teachers, Read the Announcement Board, Help us find children who have no church or Sunday School, etc. And you come, find a class for yourself.

Remember the Sunday School Kick Off is September 11, 2011. **See you there!**

Pauline Medhurst
Chair, Christian Education

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?**

INVITATION TO THE OLD TESTAMENT

An eight week discussion series on the Old Testament will be held this fall. The series will be discussion based and facilitated by Pastor Bob Lewis. A weekly sixty minute discussion session will be preceded by five selected biblical readings and a commentary from the "Participant Book." The weekly discussion sessions will include brief video presentations by biblical scholars. There will be both large and small group discussions related to the topic assigned for the week.

The topic for week one is "The Making of the Hebrew Bible." The authors suggest the Hebrew Canon of the Old Testament became Holy Scripture in three stages: 1) The Law or Torah (i.e., the first five books of The Bible); 2) The Prophets or Nevi'im which includes the narrative of Israel's history from Joshua through Kings; and 3) the Kethuvim, or writings.

The Short Term Disciple Bible Study Invitation to the Old Testament – Participant Book (a paperback) is available from Abingdon Press. It lists for \$11.50 and can be viewed at Abingdon's web site <http://www.abingdonpress.com>. Just list the title in the search box. If we have enough participants, Marsha may be able to get a reduced price by ordering the participant books in bulk.

If you are interested in participating in the study, please send me an e-mail at bobsiwel@sbcglobal.net and indicate the time when you would prefer the group session to take place. Two times currently being considered are Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour and Wednesday evenings. Please let me know your preference.

Thank you,
Pastor Bob

Musical Arts Indiana presents
Lisa Bloom, Mezzo-soprano
Carol Shamory, Soprano

and

Wishart Bell, Piano

in a recital featuring songs by Strauss, Berlioz,
DeFalla, Dvorak, Bellini, Mozart, and others.

Sunday, September 25, 2011, 3:00 pm

Kern Road Mennonite Church

18211 Kern Road, South Bend

**Admission is free, but donations to Musical Arts Indiana
will be most welcome.**



The United Methodist Women are having a Bake Sale in the Gathering Room on Sunday, Sept. 11th following both services.



WELCOME LEORA NAUTA

Leora Nauta is our new Organist. She is a respected and accomplished musician of great artistic integrity. She obtained her undergraduate degree in music from The King's University College, a Master's in Early Music Organ Performance from McGill in Montreal, where she was organ scholar of the award-winning choir of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul. She is currently completing a Master's in Sacred Music (with a concentration in Liturgical Studies) from the University of Notre Dame. In addition to her career as organist, she is an equally proficient choral conductor and performing solo vocalist, specializing in chant repertory and early music.

Please be sure to make a point to welcome Leora to the church and to introduce yourself to her.

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	David Case - Health concerns
Peggy Soderberg - Health concerns	James Pennington - Health concerns
Betty J. Byers - Health concerns	Crews Perkey - Health concerns
Miriam Olsen - Health concerns	Christyne Woolridge - Health concerns
Nadine Corse - Health concerns	Dan Perry (Betty Haines' Brother) - Health concerns
Karen Werner - 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

Additionally pray for:

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

AUGUST 2011 MISSION TALLIES

Food Pantry: For the month of August, the Food Pantry served 532 families, Representing 1,901 individuals. 30% of those served were new for the month of August.

Soup Kitchen: The Soup Kitchen was closed the first two weeks of August. In the remainder of the month, 860 people were served and 621 carry-out bags were given away for a total of 2,983 cups of soup and 2,102 meals given out in August.

Upper Room: 20 residents at the end of July (17 men and 3 women).

THE MISSING PIECE

Lake Ridge United Methodist Church, Lubbock, Texas, has found it beneficial to make this promise to donors, taken from the stewardship program by John Maxwell titled *The Missing Piece*: “The concept of tithing has been the method of financially supporting the church and its ministries since the first century.

Tithing means contributing 10% of one’s income to the storehouse—the place where one receives his/her spiritual strength; the church he/she attends. Contributions to community organizations and para-church groups would be considered offerings—donations beyond the 10% tithe.

“If you do not tithe, you are encouraged to put this missing piece to successful living in its proper place in your life. Practice tithing for the next 3 months. Begin by committing the FIRST 10% of your weekly or monthly income to the storehouse. Then, for 90 days, you bring that portion of your income to the church.

After that 90 day period, if it has created a financial crisis, or you did not receive a blessing, your money will be returned.”

Herb Miller

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND RETREAT FOR WIDOWED, DIVORCED, AND SEPARATED PERSONS

The next Beginning Experience Weekend will be held at Lindenwood Retreat Center, Donaldson, IN, from 7 PM Friday, Oct. 21 to 3 PM Sunday, Oct. 23, 2011. This Christian-based program assists persons to work through deep feelings of grief, anger, depression and loss. Register by Oct. 7! Call Teresa at (574) 261-0123 (day) or Marilyn at (269) 684-0882 (night time) or send an e-mail to greenlight7113@sbcglobal.net.

**Your creed may be
interesting, but your
deeds are much more convincing.**

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Check out the website:

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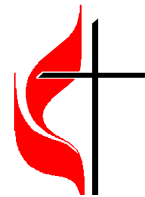
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A GREETING FROM THE CELTIC MUSICIANS



*He who loses money, loses much;
He who loses a friend, loses more;
He who loses faith, loses all.*

**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