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Find us on the web: www.signalhillumc.org

Wehrly's World

"All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer." (Acts 1:14 NRSV)

After Pentecost, the eleven remaining disciples had returned to Jerusalem and taken up residence in a room. The book of The Acts of the Apostles is very clear that these eleven knew they had a difficult and very important decision to make. They had to select a replacement for Judas Iscariot, the one who had betrayed Jesus. They narrowed their choice to two, then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen." (Acts 1:24 NRSV) By removing distractions and focusing on God through prayer, they were guided by God to select Matthias.

Signal Hill UMC has some difficult and very important decisions to make about our future. The Ministry Team is aware of this and has developed a strategy to allow God to guide them to their decision. They will be meeting weekly for eight weeks, beginning the end of this month, in Bible study and prayer. By following the pattern of the disciples, they will be able to make decisions and be guided by God. They will discover what God wants for God's church to move effectively into the future.

I ask you to be in prayer with and for your Ministry Team as they meet to discern God's will for Signal Hill UMC.

See you in church.

Calendar (check the web site for updates)

January

- Every Thursday, Sr. High Youth Group, 6:30 pm
- 19 Ministry Team, 7 pm
- 26 Ministry Team Bible Study (1st of 8 wks)

February

- 5 United Methodist Women, noon
- 25 Ash Wednesday Service, 7 pm

Check the web site often!

Take the time to check the church web site, www.signalhillumc.org, at least once a week. Every Monday, Pastor Wehrly posts his "Monday's Musings," a short perspective on coping with life.



New & expanded leadership begins 2009

During worship services on Sunday, January 4, Pastor Peter Wehrly recognized the lay leadership teams for 2009. Wehrly acknowledged members of the Ministry Team, Staff/Pastor Parish Relations, Trustees, Lay Leadership, and Finance.

Wehrly also noted that Eda Hackmann will expand her role in 2009. Over the past year, Hackmann selected music for both worship services, and had special responsibility for the structure of the second service, including the praise band. In 2009, Hackmann will also lead discipleship formation training. Her new title is *Minister of Worship and Lay Ministries*.

"Discipleship formation includes all avenues of faith development and maturation," explained Wehrly. "This will include small groups, Sunday School curriculum for all ages, Bible Studies, senior high youth, and mission trips."

Wehrly expressed his appreciation to everyone who serves the church in a staff and volunteer capacity. "We become stronger when our members work together to further God's Kingdom," he said. "I am grateful for all who are willing to do the work of the church."

"Please pray for all those who are in leadership this year," Wehrly continued. "We have many things to discern for the future of our faith community."

Church celebrates another baptism



On Sunday, December 28, Signal Hill UMC welcomed another child into our Body of Christ.

Emily Joan Kratzer, daughter of Sara and Sean Kratzer and baby sister of Sully and Chance, was born on October 10, 2008.

After Emily was baptized, Pastor Peter Wehrly brought her out into the congregation to welcome her into her new family.

Changes announced for Sunday School



Several changes have been instituted for children, youth and adult Sunday School classes for the new year. Eda Hackmann (in consultation with teachers

Edith Beach, Sue Beach, Kanda Vallina) has identified key Bible stories important to teach to our children and youth. All children and youth classes will follow the same fifty-two week schedule of stories, with age-appropriate activities. A bulletin board in the entrance area to the Sanctuary lists the current topics.

"We want our children to have a solid foundation in the Bible," asserted Pastor Peter Wehrly. "This approach will help ensure that our young people learn the important stories of their faith."

Before year-end, Edith Beach began a Sunday School time for our youngest attendees in the church nursery.

The adult classes concluded the all-church adult Advent Bible Study on December 21. The three regular classes resumed, with two switching locations. The Signal Lighters class moved to Fellowship Hall, and the Faithlink class moved to Memorial Hall. The Seekers class returned to Asbury Hall. In late January, Pastor Wehrly plans to host a membership class, also in Memorial Hall.

"It is my sincere prayer that every person who is a part of our church will be part of a Sunday School class," Wehrly said. "We need to study and discern God's will together."

Short takes...

☐ **John Hackmann** will be filling in for Pastor Debbie Melzer, Trenton UMC, in January and February, while Melzer takes a renewal leave. Hackmann was affirmed as candidate for ministry at the December Charge Conference.

☐ Many thanks to **Liz Reichert**, who was the first scheduler for the church nursery. In December, Liz handed the reins to **Sara Kratzer**. To volunteer in the nursery, leave a message at the church office or on the church email.

☐ **Barb Brannan** and **Tanna Luberda** have taken over the duty of scheduling greeters for first and second worship services.

☐ **Ninya Ashford** is the new employee in the nursery. During the week, Ninya is assistant director at our Rainbow Kids Child Care Center.

☐ **Dennis Jobin** was reelected as chair of the Board of Trustees on Sunday, January 11.

☐ Contributions for the **roof fund** stand at \$34,578.23, as of January 11, 2009.

Silent auction for silver, Jan 18 & 25



The SHUMC Trustees will offer the church's silver-plated items to members in a silent auction on January 18 and 25. Items will be on tables in the hallway next to the sanctuary. Thanks to Jan Hollinberger and her team for all the hard work they have done on this project!

Prayer quilt ministry continues

At the end of the year, our seventh and eighth quilts were tied for Linda Havlin and Betty Linder, who lost their husbands in 2008. On the second Sunday of January, another quilt was tied for Sally Collier, who has been hospitalized.

Prayer quilts are given to individuals and families in need of intentional prayer. As quilts are requested, they are displayed at the front of the church during worship. Persons come forward to tie a thread and say a special prayer for the recipient.

If you know of someone who would be blessed by receiving a quilt or would like to help piece one, please call the church or Joyce Burnette.

A note of appreciation

Dear Church Family:

Thank you for your thoughts, prayers and cards during our dual losses in December. These, along with the wonderful prayer quilt, helped us with the acceptance of the unexpected loss of Ray Renth. These same kindnesses helped with the loss of Norman Conrath, who finally was able to leave behind the frailties of old age.

*Tony, Debbie & Ralph Conrath; Ben Conrath;
Shannon & Terry Bowman*

A chance to help



Don't forget to save Campbell's soup labels and items for our food basket! In January, our gifts will go to the Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois.

For more information about the ministries of Signal Hill United Methodist Church, contact

Rev. Peter J. Wehrly, Directing Pastor
Eda Hackmann, Minister of Worship

and Lay Ministries

Kim Hutchison, Secretary

Church office hours: 8 - 1, Mon - Thurs
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Check out the web site frequently for news & information: www.signalhillumc.org

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