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Find us on the web: www.signalhillumc.org

Wehrly's World

"Jesus took the twelve disciples aside..."

(Matthew 20:17 NIV)

Jesus was "into" small groups. Although he had thousands following him, he spent most of his time with the twelve – Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus; and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him. (see Matthew 10:2-4)

I believe that the people of Signal Hill United Methodist Church need to spend time in small groups. Through the example of Jesus, we learn that it's in a small group setting that we discover how to be a true follower of Jesus – a true disciple. And that's what Jesus calls us to be and to do.

"Make disciples," Jesus tells us in Matthew 20:19, "and teach them" he continues in verse 20. We must discover how to "make" ourselves into disciples so that we can genuinely invite others into our community of faith. For as great as our worship services are, as insightful as Sunday school is, as terrific as UMW, Bible study or movie group might be - none of them can compare to the spirit forming function of a small group gathering and the preparation it will give us to "go."

I hope you'll become involved in a LIFE Group when they begin this September. It will be the most important spiritual decision you'll ever make.

See you in church.

For a copy of the description of the LIFE Groups, contact Wehrly at pastor@signalhillumc.org or 397-7780.

Calendar (check the web site for updates)

July

- 19 Golden Cross Sunday
- 19 Finance Meeting, after worship
- 21 Trustees Meeting, 7pm

August

- 11 Movie Group, 11:30 am
- 17 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, noon

Senior High Youth meet every Sunday at the parsonage by 5:45 pm to attend St. Matthew UMC Youth Service.

Wehrly announces LIFE groups

On Sunday, July 12, Pastor Peter Wehrly announced that a new small group movement will begin at Signal Hill UMC in September. L.I.F.E. groups (**L**iving in **F**aith **E**veryday) will meet twice a month to help members grow in their faith.

"I am convinced that this church needs to seriously pursue intentional discipleship formation," Wehrly said. "For this church to continue and thrive, we must deepen our spirituality."

Thirty five members listened as Wehrly distributed and discussed a handout with the specifics for the groups. Each group will have ten members and meet for 90 minutes twice a month. The format will include prayer, original video presentations, and discussion. The purposes of the groups are twofold: to develop relationships and to invite others to participate.

During the question and answer time that followed, Wehrly confirmed that worship and Sunday School will be held as usual as the groups hold eight meetings from September to December. Beth Fender, a conference resource in small group development will speak during worship on August 23 to help kick off the new ministry.

Wehrly announced that he will be contacting selected members soon for leader training. Sign-up sheets for the groups will be in the entry areas later this summer.

"I can't say enough about how much I want this to work," Wehrly said. "I hope everyone will want to participate."

SPRC hires music director

The Signal Hill UMC Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), which functions as the "personnel committee" for the church, has announced that Diana Starr has been hired as the music director. She will begin working with the church on August 3.

"After much prayerful discernment, we felt that we should move forward immediately with the music ministry," explained Paul Vallina, SPRC chair. "Diana brings a unique mix of musical talents to the position, and we look forward to her contributions to our ministry."

Susan Lipnick, who has served as pianist since September 2007, will be available as a substitute. SHUMC thanks her for her time with us.

Youth assist at Kids Camp in Cobden



Eight youth from Signal Hill UMC traveled to Jesus es el Senor in Cobden on a very hot weekend in June to help with their Kids Camp. They served as assistant camp counselors and general helpers during the camp, which served sixty children ages five through ten. Steve Brannan was an adult driver and helper, and Sue Stetzen helped with transportation.

The youth who attended were Shana Wehrly, Maureen Stetzen, Tony Conrath, Callie Spencer, Christian Spencer, Riley Brannan, Sam Brannan, and Kenyatta Crawford.

Property improvements continue

Betty McBride was one of eighteen persons who worked a long morning Saturday, June 13 to spruce up the church property. Projects included landscaping, weeding, and parking lot clean up; scraping and painting outside windows; clean up in the Memorial Hall kitchen; clean up of the stairway outside the Fellowship Hall kitchen; replacing light fixture covers in the Upper Room; and more.



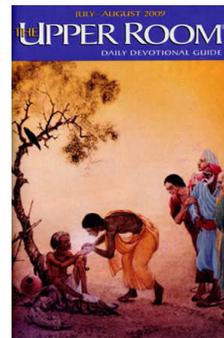
Since the work day, additional exterior painting and clean up of storage rooms behind the fellowship hall kitchen have been done. Items from the clean up are in Fellowship Hall for the taking. If you are interested, please remove the items as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, recent problems with the elevator between the entry area outside the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall has necessitated that the Signal Lighters Sunday School class relocate temporarily to Memorial Hall.

Anyone interested in helping with property clean up and improvements on their own schedule are urged to contact Trustee Chair Dennis Jobin.

Daily Devotionals available

July-August **Upper Room Devotional** booklets with daily Bible readings and devotions, including a large print version, are available in the entry area. Beginning in September, the church will order a copy for every home. Get a head start on our church-wide initiative today! The on-line version is at www.upperroom.org/Devotional/



Opportunities to be in ministry...

...**cell phone donations** to help women and children in poverty. Just place the phones in the box in the entry way.

...**shopping basket ministry**. Non-perishable food, paper & cleaning products.

Upcoming events

...Friday, August 7, **Church Women United** is hosting a picnic celebrating human rights, Swansea Moose Lodge, 11:30 am. Call Edith at 397-0220 by August 1.

...Tuesday, August, 11:30 am, the **Movie Group** will meet in Memorial Hall. Makings to build sandwiches, drinks and dessert will be provided. All are invited, including junior and senior high youth.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon set for Monday, August 17

The well-received teacher/staff appreciation luncheon for Signal Hill School, begun in 2008, will be held again this year on Monday, August 17, at noon. Thanks to those who have already indicated a willingness to assist. The Signal Hill UMC youth will help serve.

R. Dane Gale, Principal, told Rev. Wehrly in a recent email, "Your hospitality and fellowship are appreciated!"

If you are willing to help and haven't been contacted, let Pastor Wehrly know at pastor@signalhillumc.org or 397-7780.

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

Rev. Peter J. Wehrly, Directing Pastor
Kim Hutchison, Administrative Assistant

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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