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Find us on the web: www.signalhillumc.org

Wehrly's World

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right."

(2 Timothy 3:16 NLT)

On the church calendar, November 30th is the First Sunday of Advent. It's the start of a new church year - the beginning of a cycle which takes us from the birth of the baby Jesus at Christmas, through His death and resurrection in the Lent/Easter season, and then through the summer, when we hear afresh additional exciting stories from the Bible.

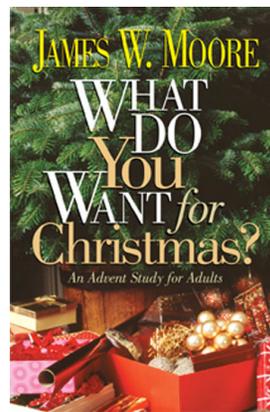
The Bible is filled with amazing stories of historical people and events, love interests and hated enemies, stories of miracles and hard work. The Bible includes 66 books devoted to the lives and events of God's people. The Bible must be read and studied over and over again to get the full extent of all it has to offer us, 21st Century Christians.

On Sunday, November 23rd, I am going to bring all the adult Sunday School classes together for a five week study titled *What Do You Want for Christmas?* In this class, we will discuss the stories leading up to the birth narrative of Jesus and how those stories impact our lives. On the First Sunday of Advent, the pre-school, elementary children and youth classes will begin to study the same Bible story each week (with age-appropriate activities). Common Bible stories have been selected to cover the 52 weeks of the year. In this way, the children and youth of Signal Hill will learn the important parts of the Bible and be taught what is true.

If you aren't currently a part of an adult class (or have children or youth who aren't in a class), I hope you'll take the risk of being exposed to the Bible and in a new and exciting way. It just might be the most important change you've ever made in your life.

See you in church,

All-church Adult Sunday School Class begins Sunday, November 23



Pastor Peter Wehrly has announced that all adult Sunday School classes will meet together for five weeks starting Sunday, Nov. 23. Wehrly has selected the *What Do You Want for Christmas?* for the Advent study. Advent, the four week preparation for Christmas, begins the next Sunday, Nov. 30.

All adults are invited to meet in the Fellowship Hall under the Sanctuary from 9:40 to 10:30 am. After the Advent study completes, the three classes currently meeting will return to their format and welcome new members.

"I am hopeful that every adult who is part of Signal Hill UMC will join us for this important study," Wehrly said. "We can all get on the 'same spiritual page' as we prepare for the birth of the Christ Child."

SHUMC to participate in "Holiday on the Boulevard" on Sunday, December 14

On Sunday, December 14, Family Hospice and the Signal Hill Neighborhood Association (SHNA) will co-sponsor "Holiday on the Boulevard" from 4 to 7 pm. The Signal Hill UMC Ministry Team has decided to participate in this event as an outreach ministry of the church.

Susan Meister is a member of the SHNA and brought the idea to the Ministry Team. "It just seemed a great opportunity to build on our outreach to our community," she said.

The church will be open as a warming station and seasonal music will be playing in the Sanctuary. A hospitality table will have additional information about the church and invite any prayer requests. A parent group from the school is planning to serve food in Fellowship Hall.

Watch the church bulletin and web site for more information.

Calendar (check the web site for updates)

November

Every Thursday, 6:30, Sr. High Youth Group

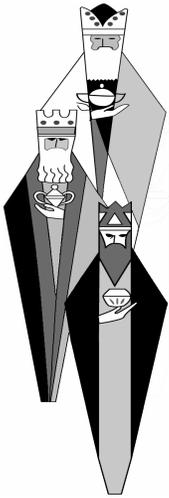
18 Trustees, 6:00 pm

23 Christmas decoration & lunch, noon

December

4 UMW, noon

14 "Holiday on the Boulevard," 4-7 pm



Congregation concludes "Our Three Gifts" fall stewardship campaign

Tomorrow, Sunday, November 16, marks the end of the 2008 Pledge Campaign, "Our Three Gifts." Over the past five weeks, we have brought Thanksgiving meal items to the altar, creating a cornucopia of food that will be given to Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House in East St. Louis for distribution to needy families.

This Sunday members will bring their pledge cards forward for their "2009 Commitment to God's Work." In addition, we will be invited to take a survey about our specific areas of ministry for next year.

"As we focus on the model of the Magi's gifts to the Christ child, we examine our own response to the spiritual discipline of tithing from our time, talents and resources," explained Pastor Peter Wehrly. "As each person brings their gifts to the church, our discipleship grows."

If you cannot be present in worship this Sunday, contact the church office to return your pledge card and to receive a survey.

UMW Christmas box expands

Please remember to bring items from the following list to enhance the UMW Christmas military packages. Bring the suggested items to church and put them in the Christmas box - thank you!

Deployed Unit Wish List

Deodorant	Snacks:
Shampoo	chips, jerky
Body Wash	gummi bears
Toothbrushes	candy (that won't melt!)
Toothpaste	single drink mix
Shaving Cream/Gel	pudding cups
Foot Cream (A&D)	individual cereal boxes
Razors	salt & pepper
Plastic plates, bowls, spoons	quick meals
Magazines (cars, fishing, sports)	instant powdered milk

SHUMC receives energy grant

Pastor Wehrly has announced that Signal Hill UMC has received an Ameren non-residential credit for \$4,594.80. Wehrly completed the grant application for electric rate relief assistance earlier this year.

Thirteen participate in CROP Walk



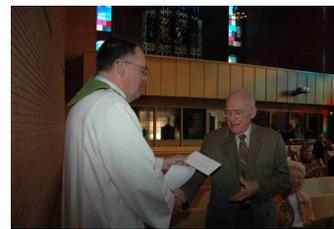
Missions chair Marge Buser reports that 13 persons participated in the Metro-East CROP Walk on October 26. Over \$600 was pledged to help fight hunger in Belleville and around the world. Katie Hettick was the top fundraiser - congratulations!

Trustees continue to seek gifts for roofs



The Signal Hill UMC Trustees continue to ask for gifts to cover the cost of needed roof repairs. As of the end of October, about half of the \$50,000 needed has been given. Thank you for your generosity!

SHUMC expresses appreciation to pastors



In appreciation of the ministry of appointed pastor Peter Wehrly and retired pastor Paul Beach, Signal Hill UMC presented both with gift certificates in

October, Pastor Appreciation Month.

Welcome Emily!

Sean and Sara Kratzer welcomed daughter and little sister Emily on October 10:

Sean and I would like to say thank you to all the ladies and their families who have taken time out of their schedule to make wonderful meals for our family. We really appreciate all of your time and effort that went in to making them. Bless you all.

The Kratzer's

Short takes...

- Thanks to Jan Hollinberger (and others) for new curtains in the church office!
- Thanks to Bud Hollinberger for the new vanity in the Memorial Hall restroom.
- Looking for missions-related giving for Christmas? Go to www.umcor.org for the UMCOR Gift Catalog. Make a difference in the US and around the world!

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

Rev. Peter J. Wehrly, Directing Pastor
Eda Hackmann, Director of Music Ministry
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