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Find us on the web at www.signalhillumc.org

Wehrly's World

'Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.'

Zechariah 4:10 NLT

This is the first issue of *The Beacon*, Signal Hill UMC's newsletter. This issue is small and future issues may also be small. But we are working to stay informed. Our web site (www.signalhillumc.org) is on line. An announcement loop is running on the big screen when you enter the sanctuary for Sunday morning worship. I want everyone to be aware of the ministries and the challenges that are part of the life of our church.

I want to thank Janise Chamblin and Susan Meister for their work on this newsletter. Without their help, it just wouldn't have happened. Also thanks to Kim Hutchinson for her faithfulness as my Administrative Assistant. She makes sure that news items get to the people who need to see them. She also helps keep me aware of activities and news that are happening in our community.

We have begun many things since July 1. Small beginnings are important because they mean that new things are happening. Furthermore, we can build on these 'small beginnings.' May we have much 'beginning' and 'building' in the coming months and years. See you in church!

Calendar

January

- 15 Trustees, 6pm
- 16 Ministry Team, 7 pm
- 20 Confirmation Meeting, 9:45 am
- 29 Rainbow Kids Board, 6:30 pm

February

- 6 Ash Wednesday service, 7 pm
- 20 Finance Committee, 6:15 pm

Check the web site Worship Calendar for additional service and meeting information.

Signal Hill UMC welcomes new staff member

In late December, the staff parish relations committee approved the hiring of Eda Hackmann as the new Director of Music Ministry. Hackmann is currently a student at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Illinois and a Master of Church Music from Pensacola Theological Seminary.



"Eda's main responsibility will be to work with me to develop the second worship service," explained directing pastor Peter Wehrly. "We are also looking forward to her assistance in selecting music for all services and scheduling special music."

Hackmann, a resident of Fairview Heights, has worked in staff and volunteer capacities at churches around the area, including Edgemont Bible Church, Christ United Methodist Church and Benld United Methodist Church.

"We welcome Eda to our staff and look forward to her ministry with our church," said Paul Vallina, SPRC chair.

Sunday Bible Study starts January 20

A Bible Study on the Gospel of Luke will begin on Sunday, January 20, at 3 p.m. Pastor Wehrly will lead the 15 week study. Each session will be about 1 ½ hours.

"I urge anyone interested in deepening their knowledge of Scripture to join the class," said Wehrly. "Whether you are new to Bible study or are a seasoned veteran, this study will be interesting and accessible."

Make plans today to join one of the Sunday School classes – learn more about your relationship with Jesus!

Signal Hill UMC is on the web



www.signalhillumc.org
Check the web site frequently for announcements, news and helps for your walk of discipleship.

(This newsletter is posted to the web, mailed to a select mailing list and available at the church.)

Christmas offering assists missionaries

The 2007 Christmas offering of nearly \$850 will be used to support the Signal Hill UMC covenant relationship with two missionaries, Miguel Arenas Herrera (Uruguay, South America) and Janet McCarty (Philippines), both assigned through the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) of The United Methodist Church. More information about the work of United Methodist missionaries can be found at the GBGM website, gbgm-umc.org.

Heritage Sunday planning underway



At a meeting held on January 14, a team began putting together the plans for Heritage Sunday, to be held Sunday, May 4.

"We want to celebrate our past, acknowledge our present ministries and look forward to the future," explained pastor Peter Wehrly. "I believe that Heritage Sunday can be an important way for Signal Hill UMC to 'reconnect' to our neighborhood and community."

Some of the events that are planned include Open House for both the church and the Rainbow Kids Childcare Center; a celebratory worship service with special music by Signal Hill UMC musicians and students at Signal Hill School; a historical display; participation by McKendree University; and more.

To volunteer to help, contact Kim at the church office.



Kids Kount, our after school program, can always use more adult volunteers on Wednesday afternoons.

Call or email Kanda Vallina for more information -277-5187, kandavallina@yahoo.com

MGM Sunday – next steps

In mid-November, thirty four persons "signed up" to use their gifts and talents to support Sunday worship through the My Gifts Ministry Sunday program. Many were interested in being greeters, ushers, communion servers and liturgists. Others indicated their willingness to help with fellowship, music, Sunday School, maintaining prayer cards in the pews, and opening and closing the building. Several found ministries that weren't included on the formal list, including prayer vigils, UMW, Kids Kount, outside work, cooking, and nursing home/hospital visitation.

"What a great response!" exclaimed pastor Wehrly. "Our church will become stronger as all our lay members become active in ministry!"

Several persons from the liturgist list participated in the Christmas Eve service, and the special Advent/Christmas Eve choir invited many with an interest in music.

Training classes for all interested persons will be held soon. To add your name to the list or to suggest a new ministry opportunity, contact the church office.

Food basket collection

The Signal Hill UMC missions team, headed by Marge Buser, collects non-perishable food items and household goods on a continuing basis.

Items can be placed in the shopping cart in the gathering area outside the sanctuary. Items are delivered to Bethany Place Food Pantry, Women's Violence Prevention of Metro East, and St. Clair County Emergency Food Center.

Make it a habit to pick up extra items every week for our food basket ministry.

"Each one should use whatever gift God has given to serve others."

1 Peter 4:10

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
Jeff Nelson, Custodian

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