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Find us on the web: www.signalhillumc.org

Wehrly's World

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:22 NIV)

We are in the midst of challenging economic times. Every day the news is filled with the worsening effects of the recession. For those with pension plans, retirement incomes are dwindling with each passing month. It can become very easy to lose sight of what is really important.

'While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.' (Romans 5:8 NIV) This, I believe is what our eyes should focus on. Yes, we need to be aware of the current economic situation and adjust our budgets accordingly, but our main efforts should be directed at loving God because of what God has done and is still doing for us. This produces a life more richly blessed than all that which money can buy.

The Apostle Paul understood the challenges of everyday living. In his letter to the churches in Galatia, he shares that 'it is for freedom that Christ has set us free' (Galatians 5:1a NIV) Paul wants us to know that fretting over things out of our control, binds us up, actually enslaves us, not allowing us to enjoy the freedom which Christ gives. When our lives are bound, we cannot produce the fruit which God desires us to produce. The scripture printed above (Galatians 5:22) is the fruit which we, as Disciples of Jesus, will produce when we our lives are not 'burdened by a yoke of slavery.' (Galatians 5:1c NIV)

Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter services will give your souls nourishment in order to produce the fruit God desires. I hope to see you then.

Calendar (check the web site for updates)

March

- Every Thursday, Sr. High Youth Group, 6:30 pm
- 16 Ministry Team Bible Study/Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 17 Prayer Quilt Ministry, 9:30 - 11:30 am
- 17 Trustees, 7:00 pm
- 22 One Great Hour of Sharing offering
- 23 Ministry Team Bible Study, 6:30 pm

April

- 2 United Methodist Women, noon
- 14 Movie Group, 11:30 am
- 24 Capital City Ringers handbell concert

Preparations underway for powerful Holy Week & Easter Worship Services

Pastor Peter Wehrly encourages everyone to make plans now to attend the upcoming Holy Week and Easter worship services in April.



"The remembrance of the last few days of Jesus' human life and His resurrection lie at the heart of our Christian faith," Wehrly said. "I always encourage church members to 'walk with Jesus' through the events of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday and Good Friday so that they can better appreciate His sacrifice for us and rejoice in the promise of His victory over sin and death."

The schedule of worship is:

April 5 Palm Sunday, 10:45 am

April 9 Holy Thursday, 7 pm

April 10 Good Friday, 7 pm

April 12 Easter Sunday, 10:45 am

"Easter Sunday is also an ideal time to invite your friends and neighbors to join our community of faith," Wehrly continued. "Just tell your own personal story about how Jesus makes a difference in your life and invite them to church!"

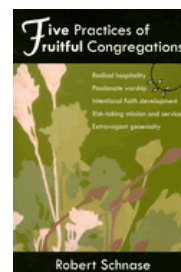
Five Practices sermon series continues

The sermon series based on *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* continues on the Lenten Sundays in March.

March 15 *Risk-Taking Mission & Service*, Rev. Gregory Boylan

March 22 - *Intentional Faith Development*, Rev. Bradley Watkins

March 29 - *Extravagant Generosity*, Rev. Peter Wehrly.



All-church adult Sunday School continues; return to regular classes April 5

All adults are encouraged to join the all-church class meeting in Fellowship Hall through Sunday, March 29. On Sunday, April 5, the regular classes will resume, and meet from 9:30 to 10:30 am:

Signal Lighters, Fellowship Hall
Seekers, Asbury Hall
FaithLink, Memorial Hall

Housing needed for Capital City Ringers



Capital City Ringers, an elite handbell group from Lansing, Michigan, will be in concert at Signal Hill UMC on Friday, April 24 at 7 pm. Our church is extending warm hospitality to the group by offering places to stay on Friday evening after the concert.

In addition, several will need transportation back to the church on Saturday morning. If you would be willing to host and help with transportation, please call Jan Hollinberger, 235-8712, hollinberger@att.net.

Publicity releases will be sent shortly to the local newspaper and churches in our area. If you would like a flyer to post, or have a suggestion for publicity, call or email Susan Meister, 397-1366, smeister06@earthlink.net

Thanks to Jan for her coordination and to everyone who will help make this event a success!

Prayer Quilt ministry to meet March 17

All who are interested in helping make prayer quilts are invited to meet with Joyce Burnette and her team on Tuesday, March 17, from 9:30 to 11:30 am. "I want to thank everyone who donated materials, supplies and helped with the quilts!" Burnette exclaimed. To date, ten quilts have been made and given to persons in need of intentional prayer.



If you know of someone who would be blessed by receiving a quilt, call the church or Joyce at 235-3451, cbjb8@charter.net.

Trustees update computers at church

Signal Hill UMC Trustees have recently completed several technology updates at the church at very reasonable prices. A local Belleville company installed three refurbished computers with updated software in the pastor's office, the sanctuary, and the glass office; and internet access to the glass office for less than \$500.

"We're glad to install these computers and help increase the productivity of our church staff and volunteers," explained Trustees' chair Dennis Jobin.

Gifts survey results distributed

Late last year, members of SHUMC were invited to fill out a "gifts survey," where each person indicated areas of ministry in which he or she would like to participate. In February, a letter with the summary results was mailed to all who participated in the survey.

"It was such a great experience to see the spirit of ministry as evidenced in these results!" exclaimed Pastor Wehrly. "Over the next several months, we will be calling on you to help in the areas you indicated."

If you did not have an opportunity to take the gifts survey or would like to talk to the pastor about utilizing your gifts in service to the church, contact the pastor, pastorpete@compu-type.net, 397-7780.

Ministry Team continues study on *Unbinding the Gospel*

Since early February, members of the Signal Hill UMC Ministry Team have been meeting on Monday evenings to study *Unbinding the Gospel*, by Martha Grace Reese. This Bible study focuses on real life evangelism, and the team has had many lively discussions about applying the principles to our life together at Signal Hill.

"When we look at the statistics, we can see that this church has not grown in five years," explained Pastor Peter Wehrly. "We need to take seriously Jesus' call to us to 'seek the lost' and begin to invite others to join our community of faith."

Wehrly explained that in the near future, members of the congregation will be invited to join the next phase of the evangelism series under the leadership of the Ministry Team.

A chance to help...

SHUMC will take the offering for UMCOR's One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 22. UMCOR helps survivors of disaster throughout the world.

Please save Campbell's soup labels and items for our food basket! In March, our gifts will go to Bethany Place, which has also indicated a need for gently used linens and luggage.



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
618-397-7780

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Check out the web site frequently for news & information: www.signalhillumc.org

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