



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

A church that is growing, praying, and serving to make disciples of Jesus Christ

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

AUGUST 2014

PASTOR'S PERUSALS

By Chuck Trent

WHAT A MONTH! Any 'first month,' for a pastor and spouse/family in a new appointment could be described that way, but since this 'first month,' has been even more unusual than normal, we need to find a new way to describe it. WOW, WHAT A MONTH! No, that doesn't do it justice either, but we will keep trying. It only seems as though it has only been a few days ago that Linda and I arrived at the Charleston Days Inn, motel on the west edge of town. We knew that the work on the parsonage would take a week, or so, and did our best to make the motel our interim home. The folks there are very nice and the rooms are clean and comfortable. We have no complaint, but as many of you have heard me say; there is a reason the place is called "Days" Inn. It was so exciting to watch the work on the parsonage progress steadily toward the goal of making it the best 'pastor's house,' it could be and I won't embarrass those who have put in so many hours on this project by mentioning their names. But we are ever so grateful.

WHEN THE PARSONAGE WAS READY to become our residence the mover, whom I will not embarrass by mentioning his name, had no idea when he could deliver our furniture from his base in Mt. Vernon from where he moves lots of UMC pastors and families. He still hasn't made the delivery, but THANKS TO THE UNITED METHODIST INGENUITY; we are living in the parsonage with begged and borrowed beds, table, chairs, linen, towels and cooking utensils, just 31 days after arriving in Charleston. LINDA IS AT THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S "Mission U." in Springfield until the 6th and we both will be in Shelbyville, Sunday, August 10th as the folks at Wesley Chapel and Fourth Street UMCs, gives us a bang up UMC welcome. Be sure to be at Otterbein that day to hear Richard Dennis proclaim the gospel as the Lord gives it to him to share.

THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF adventures this past month, but I'll see if I can work those into future sermons. Thanks to all of you who have been going the second, third and fourth miles to make us feel so welcomed these first few weeks. As I am able to visit with more of you in your homes and other situations, I know we are going to making Disciples for Jesus Christ in new and different ways that William Otterbein would only marvel at. We will find them marvelous too.

Shalom,
Chuck

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

Annual Conference, June 4-7, was held in Peoria. Each church in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference can send one lay delegate for each assigned pastor. I again represented Otterbein. We, as a conference, conducted some necessary church business. And again, worship times were a highlight.

The conference was presided over by our Bishop, Jonathan D Keaton. Some of the necessary business that needed to be taken care of included approval of various reports and decisions on several issues presented for action. We decided on a Conference Budget, Pastors' Pension and Nominations to fill all the Conference committees. Unfortunately, we were asked to approve the closing of a few struggling churches in the Conference.

Extensive discussion centered on Pastors Health Insurance. It was decided rather than the local church paying \$17,500 for the pastor's health insurance, the church will pay the pastor \$12,000 for the pastor to purchase their own insurance (the best deal for their needs that they can find). This will save a local church \$5,200.

Otterbein will little be affected since we have a part-time, retired pastor who can get some assistance from the Preacher's Aid Society and Benefit Plan for health insurance needs

Church business, worship and fellowship are all part of Annual Conference. Pray that all these aspects are carried out at Otterbein, too.

Jim Craig

LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

In my 35 year career with the Postal Service, it was a safe bet that I had been in contact with well over 100 million letters not counting magazines, newspapers, and packages. Over the past few years, the Postal Service has witnessed a sharp decline in letters being mailed, especially hand-written ones. As a people, we have forgotten just how precious a hand-written letter can be to the recipient. Ask a soldier, if he or she would rather receive an email or a hand written letter from their spouse. Ask the same question to a person in prison, a child away at camp, or a grandmother who lives a thousand miles away and I would venture to say that the vast majority would prefer a handwritten letter. Why, you ask? I would say that there is something special about reading from the actual hand writing of the person. The reader can visualize the writer as the words soothe their hearts. Often times there may be a fragrance on the paper or ink. The reader's experience is intensified far more than a cold email.

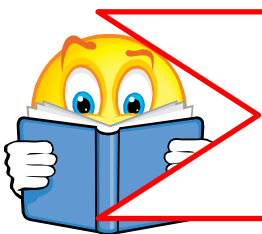
I read recently that a personal, 9-page letter written by Mark Twain to his daughter in 1875 sold for \$33,000.00 in 1991. Ordinary correspondence from the author of Tom Sawyer usually brings \$1,200.00 to \$1,500.00 a page. Experts say that even though Twain wrote 50,000 letters during his lifetime, demand is still the strongest for the personal notes. There is something special about these personal letters. I wonder if in generations to come, personal e-mails from this century will be as sought after as hand-written letters.

You probably don't have a letter from Mark Twain tucked away in a drawer, but each one of us own a priceless collection of letters. Twenty-one of the 27 books in the New Testament are letters written to encourage and instruct Christians. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul wrote, *"Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation as I have already written briefly."* (3:2, 3) NIV Paul had received a message from God and was told to preach it to the world. The letters we hold in our hands today contain God's special revelation to us.

To every Christian, the value of the New Testament letters is not monetary, but rather the immeasurable value in God's wisdom being shared with us!

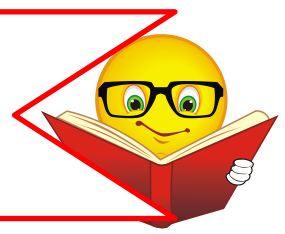
In His Grip,

Butch



Thought for the Day

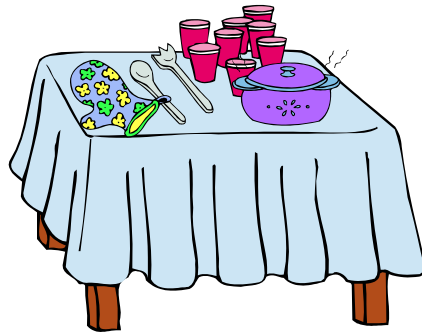
If you want life changing mail, open your
Bible and read a letter from God!



SEPTEMBER 10TH @ 6PM

**Fall Family Night Kickoff &
Welcome Dinner/Potluck
For Pastor Chuck & Linda**

Watch For More Details



Let us continue to remember our shut-in and homebound members.
Please remember them in your prayers and feel free to visit or send a card ☺

Francis Adkins

Odd Fellow Rebekah Home
201 Lafayette E
Mattoon, IL 61938
Birthday: 5/25

Joan Hutton

Hilltop Conv. Center
910 W. Polk Rm. 209
Charleston, IL 61920
Birthday: 4/21

Tom Watson

2200 Madison Ave.
Charleston, IL 61920
Birthday: 8/10

Raymond Plath

Brookstone Estates
314 Lincoln Hwy. Rd
Charleston, IL 61920
Birthday: 3/10

Eleanor Rice

Heartland Christian Village
101 Trowbridge Rd
Neoga, IL 62447
Birthday: 2/9

2014 Worship Leaders

Please check the website for a current list of Worship Leaders for 2014. These include **Greeters**, **Acolytes**, **Ushers**, **Family Cross** and **Children's Moment Leaders**. We appreciate your involvement in our weekly worship service.

www.charlestonotterbein.org

Please Note

*If you need to reach
Pastor Chuck Trent*

Cell (618) 262-3409

chucktrent47@gmail.com



Family Night

*We could still use your help in providing supplies for Wednesday Family Nights.
Here's how you can help...*

- Donate canned fruits, cake/brownie mixes, frosting, peanut butter & jelly, salad dressings, pudding cups, Rice Krispies & marshmallows, Apple Juice or Lemonade Mix (*Place them on the "Family Night Supplies" shelves in the room across from the kitchen*);
- Donate \$\$ for paper & plastic supplies & teaching resources. Cash in an envelope, or a check marked "Family Night", can be placed in the offering plate.



Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...



Newspapers

Betty Potts would like to thank everyone who has brought newspapers for her. She really appreciates it, and she could always use more if you have extras 😊

Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*Sept 2014*) will be printed and distributed around the end of August. The deadline to submit articles or information in the September newsletter will be **Thursday, August 21.** Please contact Michelle Price (217) 549-7285 or email the church office if you have information to include.



But Let Us Encourage One Another (Hebrews 10:25)



August 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	2
3 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	4 <u>Finance Meeting</u> 6:30 PM <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	5 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	6 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	7 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	8 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	9
10 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	11 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	12 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	13 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	14 <u>Newsletter</u> <u>Articles Due</u> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	15 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	16 <u>VBS</u> 8:30 – 3:30
17 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	18 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	18 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	19 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	20 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	21 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	22
23/30 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	24/31 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	25 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	26 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	27 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	28 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	29 

FINANCE REPORT

Please note the following figures and reports provided by the Finance Team.

LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

	<u>Amt Received</u>	<u>Amt Needed</u>	<u>Over/(Short)</u>
7/06	\$ 3,127.15	\$ 1,245.00	\$ 1,882.15
7/13	\$ 1,267.00	\$ 1,245.00	\$ 22.00
7/20	\$ 1,404.00	\$ 1,245.00	\$ 159.00
7/27	\$ 1,033.31	\$ 1,245.00	\$ -211.69
TOTAL	\$ 6,831.46	\$ 4,980.00	\$ 2,274.84



MONTHLY EXPENSES

PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

Ameren CIPS (Church)	\$ 495.00
City of Charleston (Water Dept)	\$ 26.00
Conf. Group Health Ins. (Pastor)	\$ 1,525.00
Consolidated Comm. (Church)	\$ 93.00
IGRC Missions	\$ 1,062.00
IGRC Pension (Pastor)	\$ 836.00
Childress Mowing	\$ 160.00
Janitor/Secretary Wages	\$ 494.04
Maintenance Supplies	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 40.00
Chuck Trent	\$ 2,380.26
Nicholas Gleason TV/Hse. Phone	\$ 120.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 41.00
Postage	\$ 49.00
Print Co (Newsletter)	\$ 24.00
SS Material	\$ 72.00
Upper Room/Devozone	\$ 27.00
State Farm Ins. (Bldg & Work Comp)	\$ 285.15
TOTAL	\$ 7,779.45
Weekly	\$ 1,245.00

BUILDING FUND

Current Balance

8/3 \$289.03

Monthly Mortgage Payment \$ 1,356.55

Ushers & Greeters



August Worship Leaders

	<u>8/03</u>	<u>8/10</u>	<u>8/17</u>	<u>8/24</u>	<u>8/31</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Randy & Becky Rice	Jim & Carolyn Craig	Jim Hackett	Austin & Sean Hackett	Dan & Vickie Bircher
<u>Acolyte</u>	Omarion Smallhorn	Mackensie Wilson	Jade Smyser	Brandon Schulz	Kayla Donley
<u>Family Cross</u>	Marty & Loretta Buell	John & Lisa McDaniel	Rex & Joan Johns	Larry & Melody McGrath	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn
<u>Ushers</u>	Lisa McDaniel Betty Potts Dan Bircher Brad Bircher	Sean Hackett John McDaniel Jerry Payne Jim Hackett	Sandy Smallhorn Marcia Lawhead Need Volunteer Phyllis Hackett	Clinton Tribby Bonnie Tribby Butch Hackett Linda Hackett	Mackensie Wilson Deece Schwartz Ian McDaniel Keridwen McDaniel
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Paula Dennis	Richard Dennis	Carolyn Craig	Jane Cox	Pastor Chuck



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AUGUST 2014

Sunday Morning Worship

9:00 a.m.

Otterbein United Methodist Church
2175 E. Harrison
Charleston, IL 61920

CONTACT US:

(217) 345-5843 (phone)

charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com (email)

www.charlestonotterbein.org (webpage)

Find us on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/charlestonotterbein

All are welcome!

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2175 E. Harrison
Charleston, IL 61920

