



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JANUARY 2013

Check out these fun facts & trivia about the New Year:

•According to statistics from the National Insurance Crime Bureau, more vehicles are stolen on New Year's Day than on any other holiday throughout the year.

•The Times Square New Year's Eve Ball came about as a result of a ban on fireworks. The first ball, in 1907, was an illuminated 700-pound iron and wood ball adorned with one hundred 25-watt light bulbs.

•Due to wartime restrictions, the New Year's Eve ball was not lowered in 1942 and 1943.

•Throughout the year, visitors to Times Square in New York City write their New Year's wishes on pieces of official Times Square New Year's Eve confetti. At the end of the year, the wishes are collected and added to the one ton of confetti that showers the crowd gathered in Times Square in celebration of the New Year.

•The top three destinations in the United States to ring in the New Year are Las Vegas, Disney World and New York City.

•According to a survey, 40 to 45 percent of American adults make one or more resolutions each year. The top New Year's resolutions include weight loss, exercise, quitting smoking and better money management. By the second week of January, 25 percent of people have abandoned their resolutions.

•In Italy, people wear red underwear on New Year's Day as a symbol of good luck for the upcoming year.

--<http://woodridge.patch.com>

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PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I pray this letter finds you well and blessed. My hope is each of you had a joyful holiday season, as you celebrated and enjoyed time with your families. As the holiday season winds down, I'm thrilled to share with you an exciting new change that this New Year will bring Otterbein.

In 2013, Otterbein will begin a new partnership with one of our community's mission organizations, Soup Stop. As many of you know, Soup Stop has been located at the Presbyterian Church for over a decade. Sadly, the ministry will be forced to leave the Presbyterian Church, due to changes in the Presbyterian Church's insurance policy.

Soup Stop has asked if we could host their ministry in our fellowship hall. Our insurance policy does allow this type of program. Soup Stop volunteers will serve their guests between 11:00 AM and 12:30 PM every Monday through Friday. Soup Stop will also host fund-raising concerts at Otterbein periodically throughout the year.

On Sunday, December 9th, 2012, our Church Council approved their request. While there are challenges in hosting any community mission organization, there are also many rewards. Our association with Soup Stop offers a great mission partnership to our community and an incredible opportunity to demonstrate our congregation's heart.

Throughout the fall of 2012, hunger is a concern that we at Otterbein have been daring to confront. There is nothing more gut-wrenching than hearing the cries of children who are feeling the pains of empty stomachs. And sadly, based on every indicator, more and more American families and children are facing food scarcity due to lack of money for groceries.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) the number of Americans who lived in households that lacked consistent access to adequate food has soared to 49.1 million, the highest level since USDA began tracking hunger data.

Without a doubt, Otterbein United Methodist Church exists for the primary purpose of introducing people in our community to Jesus Christ – the only One who can eternally satisfy the spiritual needs of the soul. However, Jesus has given us the action items that will be the measures of evaluation on how well we, as His Disciples, follow His mandate:

I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...
thirsty and you gave me something to drink...
a stranger and you invited me in...
I needed clothes and you clothed me...
sick and you looked after me...
in prison and you came to visit me...

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me.

(Matthew 25:35-40)

PASTOR'S CHAT CONTINUED (FROM PAGE 2)

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

In no uncertain terms, Jesus calls his followers to a lifestyle of sacrificial mission, giving ourselves with Him for God's redemptive work in the world. As we begin this new partnership with Soup Stop, I encourage our families to do more than simply open up our doors for this ministry. I encourage you to live in the fullness of Jesus' mandate. I want to offer you three ways you can faithfully live out this call as partners with Soup Stop:

1) Pray for Soup Stop

As I mentioned, any move can bring challenges, as well celebrations, not just for us but for the leaders, volunteers, and guests of Soup Stop. Ask God to make this new partnership fruitful. Pray for the leaders that their faithful persistence will deliver changed lives. Pray for the volunteers who deliver Jesus' message of justice and mercy in the form of a hot plate of food and warm fellowship. Pray for the guests of Soup Stop, that they may be fulfilled physically and spiritually, and restored to His perfect image.

2) Volunteer at Soup Stop

As a volunteer at Soup Stop for seven months, I have found it to be very gratifying to do something concrete to alleviate the suffering of neighbors who live in hunger. While What's Cookin' provides the meal, Soup Stop is always looking for volunteers to serve the food and to help keep the serving and kitchen area clean. Volunteering will help you to further witness the heart of Otterbein in front of our community. Volunteering will help you make our community a better place. And volunteering will connect you to others and help you make friends. If you are interested in volunteering, weekly or monthly, let me know.

3) Fellowship at Soup Stop

Even if you are not volunteering, you are invited to simply stop in for lunch. There are no requirements to eat at Soup Stop. And, Soup Stop's Board of Directors has invited all Otterbein families to join them any day to share a meal and friendship with their guests.

Who knows whose heart you might touch for Jesus Christ, whose mind you might fill with hope for Jesus Christ and whose soul you might save for Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Nicholas



LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

Greetings Otterbein Family! Happy New Year! If you are reading this, I can say with 100 percent assurance that the Mayan's were wrong! The world did not end on 12/21/12.

That being said (or in this case; written) it's time that we focus on 2013. Many of us use this month to begin new goals, start healthy habits or stop bad ones. I was reading a devotional by Dave Branon, who is a contributor to the Daily Bread and in it, he writes about a former athlete who had neglected his body too long and began an exercise routine on January 1st of last year. The first day, he did several push-ups and went for a light jog. The next day, more push-ups, a few sit-ups, and a longer run. Day 3: exercise and a mile-and-a-half run. On Day 4, the ex-athlete in re-training woke up with a sore throat. Then he did one more exercise: He jumped to the conclusion that exercising was a bad idea. If all he got out of his huffing and puffing was sickness, it wasn't for him.

Let's examine another scenario. A Christian, realizing he has neglected his relationship with God, begins a new spiritual routine of Bible-reading and prayer. But after a few days, some problem arises in his life. What does he conclude? Like the ex-athlete, should he decide that his spiritual quest was a bad idea and that it didn't do any good? Certainly not!

We don't pray and read the Bible to get a perfect, trouble-free life. Pursuing God is not a cause and effect. We do it because it draws us closer in our relationship with the One who is perfect. The pursuit of godliness will not exempt us from trouble. 2 Timothy 3: 12 states, *"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life will be persecuted....."* But a life dedicated to loving and pursuing God is always a good idea. In Hebrews 10:22, it is written, *".....let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."*

Regardless of what is thrown at us, let's challenge ourselves to increase the time we spend with God this year.

The time we spend with God each day

Through prayer and reading His Word

Will help us face what comes our way

And draw us closer to the Lord. –Sper

In His Grip,

Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

The roots of stability come from being grounded in God's Word and prayer.

Intentional Faith Development



Women's Bible Study

*Tuesday Mornings at
9:00am
w/ Sandy Smallhorn*

All women are invited to share in a time of Bible study and fellowship with other women in our church family.

ADVENT STUDY

*Thursday Evenings 6:30-7:30pm
Beginning December 6th*

Pastor Nicholas will continue to lead this 5 week study on the book The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem by Adam Hamilton. The study will continue into the month of January, as we had to cancel due to weather.

We plan to meet on January 3rd, 10th and 17th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sundays at 10:30am)

Sunday School classes available for all ages—Everyone is welcome!

Preschool Class
(Age 3-Kindergarten)
*Meet in Noah's Ark Room
w/ Sandy Smallhorn*

Elementary Class
(1st-5th grade)
*Meet in Garden Room
w/ Jane Cox*

M.S./H.S. Class
(6th-12th grade)
*Meet in Blue Room
w/ Sean Hackett*

Adult Class #1 (Believers)
*Meet in Gold Classroom
w/ Butch Hackett*

Adult Class #2
*Meet in Café Agape Room
w/ Jim & Carolyn Craig*



Please stay and share with us in Fellowship Time each Sunday following the worship service (even if you do not plan to stay for Sunday School).

This is a wonderful time to reconnect with your church family ☺

These families have signed up to provide the refreshments for the month of **January:**



January 6
January 13
January 20
January 27

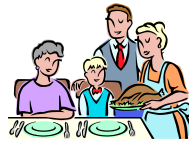
Smallhorn Family
Crystal Schulz & Bradley Bircher
Pastor Nicholas
Pastor Nicholas



Join us at **FAMILY NIGHT**

Wednesdays
6:00-7:30pm

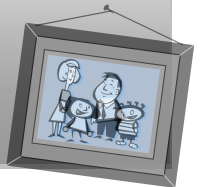
...a time of Faith, Fellowship,
and Fun with your church Family!



Family Night Meals

Offered to participants at no cost (donations are accepted, as you are able).
Feel free to join them anytime for a meal and fellowship (*you do not have to stay for the sessions beginning at 6:30 to participate in the meal!*). And you do not have to come every week—come when you can ☺ You are always welcome!!!

Please note that they will not be meeting January 2nd.



J4J (Jumping for Jesus)

Age 3-5th grade
w/ Jane Cox

Learning the Books of the Bible with
DVD series "What's in the Bible?" from
Veggie Tales Creator Phil Vischer.

Women's Group

w/ Samantha Baker

*Join the women for a devotional and various
hands-on mission/craft projects each week. They
are currently setting up a church library, including
a children's section and a reading/incentive
program for the kids.*

LinC (Life in Christ)

6th-12th grades
w/ Adam Baker

The youth will be using a practical discipleship
curriculum in a four-volume series,
Soar, Thrive, Follow, Think,
biblically discussing issues that matter to
students today.

Men's Group

w/ Jim Craig

Discuss a weekly question (taken from "Living
With Questions"), and discuss and implement
ways the men can serve both inside the church
and out into the community.

Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...



Pocket Change Sundays

Please be reminded that the youth group will be collecting Pocket Change on the last Sunday of every month to help support our World Vision child Andinet. The monthly sponsorship for Andinet is \$35. We receive progress reports, letters and cards from her regularly.

Anyone is welcome to write her a letter if you would like to ☺ The next Pocket Change Sunday collection will be January 27th. We appreciate your help in supporting this mission!

The Preschool Sunday School Class will be collecting 50 cents from everyone (or any amount you can offer!) each month to donate towards the Heifer Project, which works with communities throughout the world to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth. For more information on the Heifer Project, visit their webpage at <http://www.heifer.org>

See Sandy Smallhorn for more info. Please help support the Preschoolers with their mission work ☺

Please Note!



If you need to reach Pastor Nicholas:

Cell Phone: (740) 513-6199

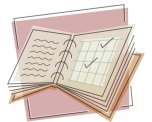
Home Phone: (217) 345-2046

Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*February 2013*) will be printed and distributed around the end of January. The deadline to submit articles or information in the February newsletter will be

Thursday, January 17.

Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office if you have information to include.



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

THE OTTERBEIN HUBBUB!

Submitted by Carolyn Craig

"The OTTERBEIN HUBBUB"

- **"Hub"** means **"focal point"**... may our ministry focus always be God-centered!
- **"Hubbub"**, a word for **"noise"**...may we come together, serving in the way God created us to serve, and make **"a joyful noise"** in the process!
- **HUB Leader**... one whose goal is **"H-elping to U-tilize the B-ody"** (of believers... at Otterbein)

- **New Church Library Coming Soon** – Once the holidays are past and the Family Night activities have resumed, the Women's Group will continue with their efforts to set up a new Church Library. The plan is to start a Children's Reading Program that will begin once the library is in order. Watch for more details regarding this program in a future newsletter.
- **Still Wanted: Cookbooks!** Do you gals (or guys) of the church have a cookbook, or 2 or 3, that you no longer use that you are willing to donate to the new church library? If so, you may drop them off in the room off the fellowship hall that is to become the new library. There really is *"method to our madness"*, but you'll have to wait until a future newsletter to learn what we plan to do with our cookbook collection. So, *"stay tuned"* for more details!
- **Wednesday Family Nights** – Be reminded that session two of the Family Night program is to begin on January 9, 2013! Hebrews 10:22-23 puts it nicely: *Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.* Thirty or more have been gathering on Wednesday evenings, and we are hoping to see even more of you join us in 2013. Make it a New Year's Resolution! We're sure you will not be disappointed!



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>
11/18	\$ 1,826.29	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 358.71)
11/25	\$ 859.67	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,325.33)
12/2	\$ 2,156.51	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 28.49)
12/9	\$ 1,171.75	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,013.25)
12/16	\$ 1,358.75	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 826.25)
<u>12/23</u>	<u>\$ 1,647.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,185.00</u>	<u>(\$ 538.00)</u>
TOTAL	\$ 9,019.97	\$ 13,110.00	(\$ 4,090.03)



BUILDING FUND

Current Balance

11/25	\$ 2,172.54
12/2	\$ 4,602.38
12/9	\$ 2,837.54
12/16	\$ 1,640.49
12/23	\$ 2,210.99

MONTHLY EXPENSES PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

Ameren CIPS (Church)	\$ 450.00
City of Charleston (Water Dept)	\$ 12.00
Conf. Group Health Ins. (Pastor)	\$ 1,525.00
Consolidated Comm. (Church)	\$ 125.00
County Office Products (Copier)	\$ 78.00
IGRC Missions	\$ 1,053.00
IGRC Pension (Pastor)	\$ 836.00
J&J Lawn Care	\$ 200.00
Janitor/Secretary Wages	\$ 535.00
Maintenance Supplies	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 125.00
Nicholas Gleason	\$ 3,084.00
Nicholas Gleason TV/Hse. Phone	\$ 120.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 41.00
Postage	\$ 44.00
Print Co (Newsletter)	\$ 24.00
SS Material	\$ 72.00
Upper Room/Devozine	\$ 46.00
State Farm Ins. (Bldg & Work Comp)	\$ 279.00
<u>Worship Service</u>	<u>\$ 30.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 8,729.00
Weekly	\$ 2,182.25

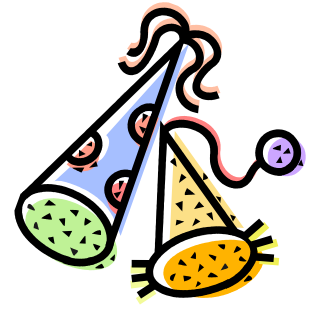
For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

--2 Corinthians 9:10 (NLT)

Celebrations

Birthdays

1/2	Joan Johns
1/4	Randy Rice
1/5	Cathi Brockman
1/7	Natalie Holloway
1/9	Derek Hennig
1/15	Jim Hackett
1/16	Marty Buell
1/22	Debra Bircher
1/26	Tabatha Lewis
1/26	Kaden Donley
1/31	Rex Johns
1/31	Barbara Carr



No
January
Anniversaries!



January Worship Leaders

	<u>1/6</u>	<u>1/13</u>	<u>1/20</u>	<u>1/27</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Dan & Vickie Bircher	Betty Potts & Cathi Brockman	Tom & Shelli Blair	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn
<u>Acolyte</u>	Jade Smyser	Brandon Schulz	Mackenzie Wilson	Tyvon Johnson
<u>Ushers</u>	Rose Snider Bill Snider Sandy Smallhorn Rick Waltrip	Bob Stoner Wayne Cox Sean Hackett Jim Hackett	Tom Blair Shelli Blair John McDaniel Lisa McDaniel	Doug Hennig Mary Hennig Clinton Tribby Bonnie Tribby
<u>Family Cross</u>	Rex & Joan Johns	Larry & Melody McGrath	Bob & Betty Stoner	Dorothy Cox & family
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Samantha Baker	Carolyn Craig	Sandy Smallhorn	Jane Cox



JANUARY 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 New Year's Day <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am	2 <i>Joan Johns</i> <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	3 <u>Advent Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	4 <i>Randy Rice</i>	5 <i>Cathi Brockman</i>
6 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	7 <i>Natalie Holloway</i> <u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm	8 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am	9 <i>Derek Hennig</i> <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	10 <u>Advent Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	11	12
13 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	14	15 <i>Jim Hackett</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am	16 <i>Marty Buell</i> <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	17 <u>Newsletter Articles Due</u> <u>5 Mile</u> 10am <u>Advent Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	18	19 <u>Arts Council</u> 9:00am-3:00pm
20 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22 <i>Debra Bircher</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am	23 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	24	25	26 <i>Tabatha Lewis</i> <i>Kaden Donley</i>
27 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	28 <u>Ad Council Meeting</u> 6:30pm	29 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am	30 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	31 <i>Rex Johns</i> <i>Barbara Carr</i>		

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JANUARY 2013

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday School

9:00 a.m.
10:30 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!



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

