



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

MARCH 2012

Enjoy this brain teaser! The answers are below if you need help ☺

Can you find twenty-five (25) books of the Bible in the paragraph below?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked in it while fishing from his john boat. Roy Clark studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Vicks mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving that she brews a cup of tea to calm her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot... that's a fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. The truth is, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help. Books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. And punctuation or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete. Remember, there are 25 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph.

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ANSWERS:
ACTS
AMOS
ESTHER
GENESIS
HEBREWS
HOSEA
JAMES
JOB
JOEL
JOHN
JUDGES
KINGS
LAMENTATIONS
LUKE
MALACHI
MARK
MATTHEW
NUMBERS
PETER
REVELATION
ROMANS
RUTH
SAMUEL
TIMOTHY
TITUS

PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I pray this letter finds you well and blessed. As I write this letter I find myself reflecting on several things. I find myself in wonder of how our faith can lead us through life. I find myself amazed at the way in which God comes to us and blesses us, in the midst of times of wonder and reflection.

Perhaps it is partly because I find myself wondering about Lent. As we find ourselves in the midst this season, where will God lead us? I wonder what God will do in each of us.

Perhaps it is partly because I find myself wondering about the Chicago Mission trip. As we prepare for this journey, how will this experience impact our youth and young adults?

I suppose what happens in each of us during these moments in life will be directly related to how we live in it. How are we allowing God to cultivate us and shape us and lead us?

I recently had a person ask me, what makes you “you”? Take a moment and consider this question with me. Write down some insights in the open spaces below as you reflect.

What are the events in your life that have made an impact on you? What did you learn from those events?

Who were the people who mentored you? What did you learn from them?

How do these events and people still impact your life today?

If we are to grow in our understanding of who God is and who we are, and how God is working in our life and in our world, we have to actively participate with the Spirit.

And as I consider my story, I think the two greatest events that have touched me is the season of Lent and my mission trips. I know I can get caught up in my own little world. Maybe you can relate. We need these moments in life to humble ourselves and to encounter the vastness of God’s cosmos beyond ourselves.

I want to encourage you to commit yourself to participating in this season of Lent! Let’s begin there. Open yourself up to the amazing ways God can work within you and through you! I can’t guarantee what God will do. But I promise it won’t be waste of your time!

Shalom,

Nicholas



LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

Reverend Henry Ward Beecher entered Plymouth Church one Sunday and found several letters awaiting him. He opened one and found it contained the single word "FOOL" written on it. Quietly and with becoming seriousness, he announced to the congregation that fact in these exact words:

"I have known many an instance of a man writing a letter and forgetting to sign his name, but this is the only instance I have ever known of a man signing his name and forgetting to write the letter."

People don't like to be called a fool or to be fooled. It saddens me to see the customers that used to come into the post office or to H & R Block that have been victims of some kind of crooked schemes that cost them money, endangered their health or wasted their time. It happens to elderly people when they trust a friendly, persuasive person who comes to their door offering repairs for a low rate; to people who reply to "junk-mail" offering them 'Get-Rich-Quick' scams; or to sick folks looking to save money on discounted medicines.

It can happen to any of us too – in spiritual matters. We can be fooled by deceitful presentations that make guarantees far beyond what God has clearly promised. This isn't anything new. Paul warned about this kind of deception in Colossians 2: 8 when he wrote *"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."*

The footnote in my Bible explains this passage as follows:

Paul writes against any philosophy of life based only on human ideas and experiences. Paul himself was a gifted philosopher, so he is not condemning philosophy. He is condemning teaching that credits humanity, not Christ, with being the answer to life's problems. That approach becomes a false religion. There are many man-made approaches to life's problems that totally disregard God. To resist heresy you must use your mind, keep your eyes on Christ, and study God's word. When we know Jesus Christ, we don't need to seek God by means of other religions, cults, or unbiblical philosophies as the Colossians were doing. Christ alone holds the answers to the true meaning of life, because he *is* life. Christ is the unique source of knowledge and power for the Christian life. No Christian needs anything in addition to what Christ has provided to be saved. We are complete in him.

In His Grip,

Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

**Feeding on God's truth will
keep you from swallowing a lie.**

Intentional Faith Development



Sunday School

10:30am

(following worship & fellowship time)

Age 3-Kindergarten Meet in Noah's Ark Room
(2nd classroom on the right)
Led by Sandy Smallhorn & Cathi Brockman

1st-5th Grade Meet in the Garden Room
(3rd classroom on the left)
Led by Jane Cox

6th-12th Grade Meet in Jr High/High School Room
(1st classroom on the left)
Led by Sean Hackett

2 Adult Class Options:

The Believers Meet in Fellowship Hall
(End of hallway)
Led by Butch Hackett

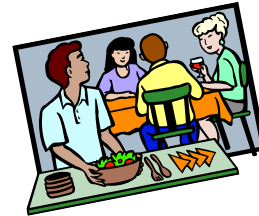
??s Meet in Café Room
(2nd classroom on the left)
Led by John McDaniel



Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays Mornings
at 9:00am

*All women are welcome to join us anytime for a time of fellowship and Bible study.
**Led by Sandy Smallhorn*



Family Night

Wednesday Evenings
from 6:00-7:30pm

All Ages--Something for everyone!
Enjoy a shared dinner with your church family and then join us in J4J, LinC, the men's group or the women's group.

Child care is available for
age 2 and younger.

Bible Study

Thursday Evenings
from 6:30-8:00pm

Currently discussing the Beth Moore study on the book of Esther. Led by Mary Hennig.

Stay tuned for
further information
regarding the next Bible study.



CHOIR PRACTICE
THURSDAY EVENINGS
at 5:45PM

**ALL ARE WELCOME
TO JOIN THE CHOIR.
LET'S MAKE A JOYFUL
NOISE TO THE LORD!**

Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...

CLUB 52

Help send kids to church camp!! Join Club 52 by giving \$1/week or a one-time gift of \$52. Please indicate "Club 52" or "Church Camp" on the memo line of your check. The deadline to pay for Summer 2012 church camp is right around the corner. The average cost to send 1 child is \$300-350. We appreciate your support of this ministry!

Sunday Fellowship Time

Everyone is invited to share in a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service each Sunday morning (before Sunday School classes begin). The refreshments and coffee will be provided by a different family each month (or possibly several families).

Mar 2012	Rick & Sharron Waltrip
Apr 2012	Tom & Shelli Blair
May 2012	John & Brenda Adams
June 2012	Bob & Betty Stoner
July 2012	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn



Vacation Bible School

It's hard to believe it's time to start planning for VBS 2012 already!

We are blessed to have this amazing mission opportunity to reach out to the children and families in our community! Please remember to pray for our leaders and volunteers as they begin planning and for all of the children that will be attending.



YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT MISSION TRIP

Pastor Nicholas is organizing a youth/young adult mission trip in June. It will be a week-long trip to the inner city of Chicago where students will experience first-hand the sights, sounds, smells, and textures of urban life. We will learn about the city and become part of the solutions for the city—offering our time, energy and sweat as we support these indigenous "ministry sites." The trip is organized through the Center for Student Missions.

Please see Pastor Nicholas as soon as possible if you are interested in participating (as a youth/young adult or chaperone).

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

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>
1/29	\$ 1,316.20	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 868.80)
2/5	\$ 2,547.91	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 362.91
2/12	\$ 1,400.50	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 784.50)
<u>2/19</u>	<u>\$ 1,285.23</u>	<u>\$ 2,185.00</u>	<u>(\$ 899.77)</u>
TOTAL	\$ 6,549.84	\$ 8,740.00	(\$ 2,190.16)



BUILDING FUND

Current Balance (each Sunday)

1/29	\$ 4,650.04
2/5	\$ 5,095.04
2/12	\$ 3,958.49
2/19	\$ 3,978.49

Monthly Mortgage Payment \$ 1,356.55

Each of you should give what
you have decided in your heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.

-2 Corinthians 9:7

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/Devozone	\$ 46.00
State Farm Ins. (Bldg & Work Comp)	\$ 279.00
Worship Service	\$ 30.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,729.00
Weekly	\$ 2,182.25

Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter
(April 2012) will be printed and
distributed around the end of March.

The deadline to submit articles or
information in the March newsletter
will be

Thursday, March 15.

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

Meet Jim and Bertha Anderson...

Jim was born in this area. He has three siblings older than him and three siblings younger. He, in Jim's words was the middle child of seven. His father originally was a carpenter. He left that job to be a more independent type of carpenter. He would purchase a fixer upper home, move the family into it. While living in it they would fix it up and then sell it for a profit. This type of work led his family as far as California and Houston, Texas. One of the homes his father built was here in Charleston. I believe it is across from the Dollar General Store here in town. His father had a floor plan only and built this nice home from that only.

Jim said he went to a different school every year of his school days, eleven different schools in all. He started school in 1944 in Ventura, California. In his Junior High School days he went to school with a girl named Bertha Gilbert. He knew who she was but didn't pay much mind to her. He did attend the Charleston High School. On Graduation night in 1956 he took Bertha out on their first date. He did kiss her that night but that was all Bertha would share.

When both fathers found out who their child was dating, things started to click. It was kind of ironic. Jim's dad and Bertha's dad went to school together at Mattoon's Hawthorn Elementary. They hadn't seen each other in years.

Bertha grew up in this area as well. She has an older brother George who is four years older than her and a sister who is six years younger than her. Her name isRosie Snider.

I couldn't resist asking some of the traditional questions like, "Did you walk five miles one way in knee deep snow to school every day?" No she said just three and a half miles. She did laugh and tell how her dad would carry her to the south fence and lift her over it. From there she could jump from the corn stumps to the next until she hit the road.

Then I asked if she wore the bloomers like the ones my mom hated so much. She said she didn't have any bloomers per say but she did have to wear long underwear. "It sure made it difficult when I went to the outhouse," she said.

On May 26, 1957, Jim and Bertha were the last couple to get married at the St. Taber Church. They stayed close to where they live now at first. Jim was a farmer and did odd jobs when he could. He worked long hard hours and was gifted in repair work. Jim drove a 1950 black Chevy Coupe. Bertha drove a two tone green 1950 Chevy Coupe that had 3 red lips on the bumper! She said she didn't put them on their but I can't help wonder what nick name she picked up over that, maybe "hot lips?"

At one point they lived in the house Bertha grew up in. It is an old farm house and the interior walls are made of logs. They have three children. Eddie is the oldest. He lives in Mt. Pulaski and works at the power plant in Springfield as the electrical engineer. Their daughter Cindy and of course Jason.

Around 1968 they moved to Sullivan, IL to the Masonic Home. Jim was the farm manager there. They had 270 acres of land. There were milk cows, beef cows and feeder cows. They took about 180 cows to market every year. Jim told us of an incredible cow they had there. She would step over the flood gate every once and a while and get on the road. He said she was so trained that he would just have to holler and she would step back over the gate and head back to the pasture. He said over the years many people had seen this happen.

Continued from page 7...

As well as this he would drive the truck up and honk the horn and the herd would walk up towards the truck because they knew something was going to happen. He had a brown dog that loved to work the cattle and another dog that loved to ride on the tractor.

Jim and Bertha raised Appaloosa horses, mules and pygmy goats. Now this is a story to beat all stories. They would take the goats to show to some schools. They would place paper and straw in a box to make a litter box for the goats. Before taking them inside they would tell the goats to make pee. The silly goats would go potty then they would take them in to see the children. When they would come back out they would go to their litter box and go potty. They had one little goat who loved to ride in the truck. Jim would say the magic phrase, "Gotta make pee before you go," and the goat would squat and potty before getting into the truck! Man I still haven't taught my husband and kids to do that! Maybe they aren't as smart as a pygmy goat!

Jim was handy at repairs. He was able to fix any of the farm equipment they had. Before him they took all of the equipment into the dealer in town. By Jim doing the work on the farm he was able to save the Masonic Home a lot of money.

They entered and attended a lot of fair circuits dairy cattle. One day every school year, busses would come to let the children tour the farm. In one day about 200 kids would come through and Jim and Bertha would show them a real working farm. Jim would haul them from one barn to another in the stock trailers. They would see the cows, pet the horses and see how a working farm ran. But it never failed, the goats would steal the show.

Although life on the farm was full of fond memories, they did suffer the ultimate tragedy. They had a beautiful little girl named Cindy. She was a joy to have around. One terrible day she stepped off the school bus and before anything could be done she was hit by a car, killing her. Being the strong people they are, they had to continue on. For their suffering, they were blessed with a beautiful baby boy, they named Jason. Knowing Jason now I hardly see where he is a blessing. Ha ha.

Jason loved his father. He loved farming and especially loved the tractor. Bertha told of the countless hours she would sit at the end of the field with her children and wait for Jim to finish in the field just so Jason could ride the tractor home with his dad.

Jim lit up with pride when he talked about Jason's vast knowledge of tractors. He said when he was thirteen Jason would read tractor manuals or parts books for pleasure instead of library books. Even to this day some of the older farmers have a hard time believing that a young man like him could know so much about tractors. Jason has rebuilt tractors ever since he could read. He has a passion and a true gift for knowing the electronics on trucks and tractors. He and his dad have entered many antique tractor shows. Jason recently showed me a picture of a tractor he was building. He painted it pink in honor of breast cancer awareness.

In 2000 Jim was forced to retire due to poor health. They moved back to the area where Bertha grew up.

Jim has a great looking shop and shed on his property. It represents another proud time in his life. He and Jason built it together. Out here Jim likes to tinker on fixing up things like his lawnmowers. He likes to use a welder as a hobby. He has a John Deere riding lawnmower that belonged to his brother. He couldn't keep it running and out of sheer frustration he told Jim the next time he borrowed it to keep it because it was junk. Jim brought it home, tuned it up himself and it runs like a Deere.

Continued from page 8...

Bertha held her own in this family. There are pictures and pictures and pictures and pictures..... She dabbled in photography. The photo's I saw were better than any professional photo's around. I saw photos of animals, landscape and family.

In addition to photography she was an accomplished seamstress. She made many of her and her family's clothes as well as Rosie's and her families. She has made many wedding dresses, prom dresses and even knitted and crocheted items.

However it isn't her obvious talents that I am extremely envious of. No not at all. It is one particular story she shared with me. For a short time she worked in the office of Harry Grafton at the courthouse. One election year a famous Republican western TV star flew in to the Coles County Airport to speak at a campaign function. Bertha was in the backseat of the car that went to pick him up. He was born and raised in the Alton area and moved out west. His name was Clint Walker the star of the TV series, Cheyenne. He played Cheyenne Bodie. For those of you who have no clue as to who he is, look him up on the internet. HE WAS GORGEOUS!!!! I asked Bertha if he was as handsome in person as he was on TV and she said, "Uhhhh huhhhh." She said something about him being a nice man as well but I didn't care about that part.

In talking they said they agreed when they married that church would be a must in their lives. When they moved to Sullivan, the Methodist Pastor was the first person to visit with them and welcome them to the area. Naturally they went to his church first and just stayed. Otterbein has been a part of Bertha's family for what seems like forever. She just couldn't imagine going anywhere else when they moved back to the area.

Family and family time was the most important hobby they shared. I asked if they had done much traveling and Bertha laughed and said if you count traveling to tractor and horse shows then sure.

When Ken asked what the most memorable time of their soon to be 55 years of marriage, straight faced Bertha said, "We took Jim's grandmother, sister and niece on our HONEYMOON! We had a ball."

As our interview wound down Ken and I hated to leave. We were invited back and we just may take them up on that. As always there is some connection I find to people we talk to and us. This time it was my Aunt Allene. Bertha knew her quite well and liked her. I, too, as a child lived just down the road from where they live now. As a child living there, family meant everything to me as well as it does to them. Ken and I have learned so much from these visits and I must say we walk away with a great deal of respect for our church family.

*****Written by Sandy Smallhorn***

**-Special thanks to Sandy for this fascinating
article about a few of Otterbein's
special members!**

Jim and Bertha currently reside in Charleston.
If you would like to send a special note,
their address is:

**JIM & BERTHA ANDERSON
13250 E CR 210N
CHARLESTON, IL 61920**

Celebrations

Birthdays

3/2	Rachel Schwartz
3/3	Richard Dennis
3/3	Lisa McDaniel
3/5	Nicole Hackett
3/5	Mercedes Roberts
3/6	Judd Hackett
3/13	Linda Hackett
3/15	Crystal Schulz
3/20	Cody McVaigh
3/25	Doug Hennig
3/31	Samantha Tanner



Anniversaries

3/14	Wayne & Jane Cox
3/19	Bill & Rose Snider



March Worship Leaders

	<u>3/4</u>	<u>3/11</u>	<u>3/18</u>	<u>3/25</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Bob & Betty Stoner	Dan & Vickie Bircher	Butch & Linda Hackett	Raymond & Sharon Johns
<u>Acolyte</u>	Jade Smyser	Tyvon Johnson	Kenny Smallhorn	Keridwen McDaniel
<u>Ushers</u>	Sandy Smallhorn Randy Rice Rose Snider Doug Hennig	Rick Waltrip Krista Snider Becky Rice Butch Hackett	Rex Johns Brad Bircher Tabatha Bircher Mary Hennig	Samantha Baker Betty Stoner Marty Buell Dan Bircher
<u>Family Cross</u>	Adam & Samantha Baker	Jim & Carolyn Craig	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn	Clinton & Bonnie Tribby
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Samantha Baker	Sandy Smallhorn	Carolyn Craig	Jane Cox



MARCH 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-8:00pm	2 <i>Rachel Schwartz</i>	3 <i>Richard Dennis</i> <i>Lisa McDaniel</i>
4 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	5 <i>Nicole Hackett</i> <i>Mercedes Roberts</i> <u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm	6 <i>Judd Hackett</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	7 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	8 <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-8:00pm	9	10 <u>Arts Council- Building in Use</u> 9am-3pm
11 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	12	13 <i>Linda Hackett</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	14 <i>Wayne & Jane Cox</i> <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	15 <i>Crystal Schulz</i> Newsletter Articles Due <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-8:00pm	16	17
18 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	19 <i>Bill & Rose Snider</i>	20 <i>Cody McVaigh</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	21 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	22 <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-8:00pm	23	24
25 <i>Doug Hennig</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	26	27 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	28 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	29 <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-8:00pm	30	31 <i>Samantha Tanner</i>

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

MARCH 2012

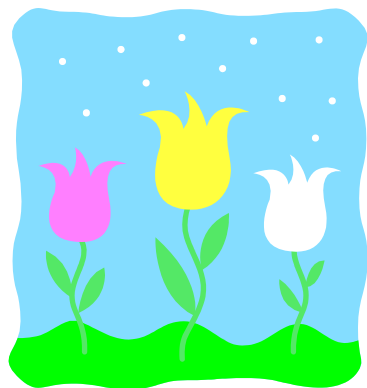
Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday School

9:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

Otterbein United Methodist Church
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All are welcome!

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