



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

MAY 2015

PASTOR'S PERUSALS

By Chuck Trent

CHUCKIN ALONG FOR THE LORD

ONE OF THE UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS of being in Coles County has been the opportunity to portray Abraham Lincoln, at the Log Cabin Historic site in the, "Evening at Ford's Theater 1865," and when the Funeral Train stops in Charleston May 6th. I never dreamed that the Lord would so bless me. This is just opportunity to do what I have been called to do, that is, minister.

LINCOLN IS AN OVER ARCHING PRESENCE IN HERE, from preserved homesteads, to statues, to historical markers anywhere that there is any evidence that he tried a case, spent the night or ate a water melon. And we should memorialize him.

ONE MARKER OF LINCOLN'S PRESENCE I found in a western Illinois church yard, while Linda and I were ministering in that part of our state, is a, "Lincoln Memorial Bell, 1865." I never was able to learn much about it. Whether Lincoln had ever been in the village or not, was not known by anyone living there. Perhaps the bereaved congregation of 150 years ago felt that a bell was a good memorial to Lincoln.

WHETHER OR NOT THE BELL EVER RANG was not known either. The bell is set in concrete upon a low brick pillar, not four feet high. The bell can't ring. Maybe it was done this way on purpose to symbolize the great voice that had been silenced. Or maybe it was placed that way to make sure it would not be rung at all hours of the night, disturbing the peoples' sleep. I still wonder about the bell that cannot ring.

THE BELL COULD BE A METAPHOR FOR THE CONGREGATION. The nearly 100 year old building is in good condition. But it is an empty shell with fewer than a dozen worshipers every Sunday. This tiny Christian group participates in their denomination's missions, meeting their meager obligations. That is good. But they are not doing what we are called to do, that is, making disciples for Jesus Christ.

LIKE THAT BELL THAT CANNOT RING, they have been, "set in concrete," for generations, resisting most changes, growing older and smaller each year. It is a sad commentary on the state of our society today, and it is not limited to that small congregation.

WE HAVE NOT BEEN CALLED TO MEMORIALIZE Jesus Christ. Memorials are for dead people. Jesus is alive. **We cannot ring out the freedom that comes through Jesus if we are set in concrete.** Change is inevitable and necessary to grow, both spiritually and numerically. OUMC has embraced change in the last year and by refusing to be, "set in concrete," will continue to do what we are meant to do, that is, to grow in every way possible making more, and better, disciples for Jesus Christ today and for the future. It is my pleasure and blessing to be serving with you in this ministry. Together let us ring out the thrill and adventure that being a follower of Jesus Christ is, to all the land.

Thanks and Shalom, *Chuck*

LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

"The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature." Romans 13:12-14

I read about Eunice McGarrah who gave an inspirational talk about Christian discipleship and told the difference between a *costume* and a *uniform*. Her talk reminded me of my father who told me that when he went into the Army, he had to box up the clothes he was wearing and send them back to his father because from that day on, he would be wearing the Army uniform. After the military, he went to work as a mail carrier and again wore a uniform for most of his life.

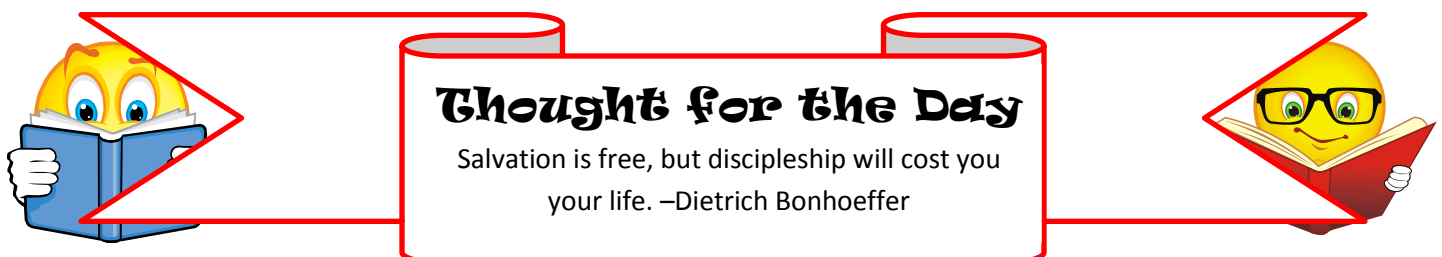
I remember being in the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and proudly wearing my uniform with the badges. I also remember all of the uniforms I wore for baseball, football, basketball and track. All of these uniforms have one thing in common: they make the person united with other team-mates/soldiers. There is a sense of oneness, uniformity (sorry, had to use it), a unified front to work together for a common goal.

As for a *costume*, we probably all have one at least one in our lifetime. Whether it was for Halloween, a play we were in, or just for a themed party, the purpose was the same. Costumes are something we wear to pretend to be someone we are not.

Paul told the followers of Christ, and us as well, that we have to cast off works of darkness and put on the armor of light. In other words, we are to put on a uniform for the Lord, to "put-on" a new identity and transform our life. When we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He begins the process of making us more like Him each day. It's not a matter of pretending to be what we aren't, but becoming more and more what we are in Christ.

(Still) In His Grip,

Butch





Picture Page



Abraham Lincoln AKA Pastor Chuck
With
Mary & Rathbone

Baptismal of
Hadlie Grace Williams
Mackensie Elizabeth Williams
Daughters of Shayna & James Williams



When preaching about the
Road to Emma's, Chuck
arranged for Cleopas to tell
the story first hand. He will
do ANYTHING to not have
to preach.



Intentional Faith

Family Night

Something for EVERYONE!!

Bring YOUR whole family!

Wednesday Evenings

6:00-6:30 pm Meal & Fellowship

6:30-7:30pm Small Groups

(All Ages)

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/ Jane Cox

M.S./H.S. Class

(6th-12th grade)

Meet in Blue Room
w/ Pastor Chuck



Adult Class (Believers)

Meet in Gold Classroom
w/ Butch Hackett

Elementary Class

(1st-5th grade)

Meet in Garden Room
w/ Sandy Smallhorn

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 ☺

~ 4 ~



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

Jim & Bertha Anderson

13250 E Cty Rd 210N
Charleston, IL 61920

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



Eleanor Rice

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

2015 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.

Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*June 2015*) will be printed and distributed around the first week in June. The deadline to submit articles or information in the June newsletter will be **Thursday, May 22.** Please contact Michelle Price (217) 549-7285 or email the church office if you have information to include.

Please Note

If you need to reach
Pastor Chuck Trent

Cell (618) 262-3409

chucktrent47@gmail.com



Happy Mother's Day





May 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	2
3 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	4 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm Finance Meeting 6:30p	5 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	6 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm <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 <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am 	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>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	14 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	15 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	16 Arts Council Meeting
17 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	18 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	19 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	20 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	21 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm Newsletter Articles due	22 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	23
24/31 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	25 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm 	26 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	27 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	28 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	29 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	30 

FINANCE REPORT

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

Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself.



— John Wesley

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
Chuck Trent TV/Hse. Phone	\$ 120.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 41.00
Postage	\$ 49.00
Print Co (Newsletter)	\$ 24.00
SS Material	\$ 72.00
Upper Room/Devozine	\$ 27.00
State Farm Ins. (Bldg & Work Comp)	\$ 285.15
TOTAL	\$ 7,779.45
Weekly	\$ 1,245.00

Monthly Mortgage Payment **\$ 1,356.55**

Trust
Never put a question mark
where the Lord has put a period.



Celebrations

Birthdays

5/4	Melody McGrath Tyvon Smallhorn
5/5	Vickie Bircher
5/16	Sherry Strode
5/25	Francis Adkins Jerry Payne Alice Seeley Lidiya Blair
5/30	Bill Porter Joey Smyser
5/31	James Anderson



Happy Anniversary

Randy & Becky Rice	5/01
Dave & Kim Hackett	5/05
James & Bertha Anderson	5/26
Joey & Kendra	5/30



May Worship Leaders



Greeters

05/03	05/10	05/17	5/24	5/31
Sharon Johns	Tom & Shelli Blair	Dorothy Cox & Family	Rick & Sharron Waltrip	Marcia Lawhead & Betty Potts

Acolyte

Brandon Schulz	Kayla Donley	Tyron Smallhorn	Ian McDaniel	Mackenzie Wilson
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Family Cross

Jerry & Sue Payne	Phyllis Hackett	Brad Bircher & Crystal Schulz	Doug & Mary Hennig	Cathi Brockman
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Ushers

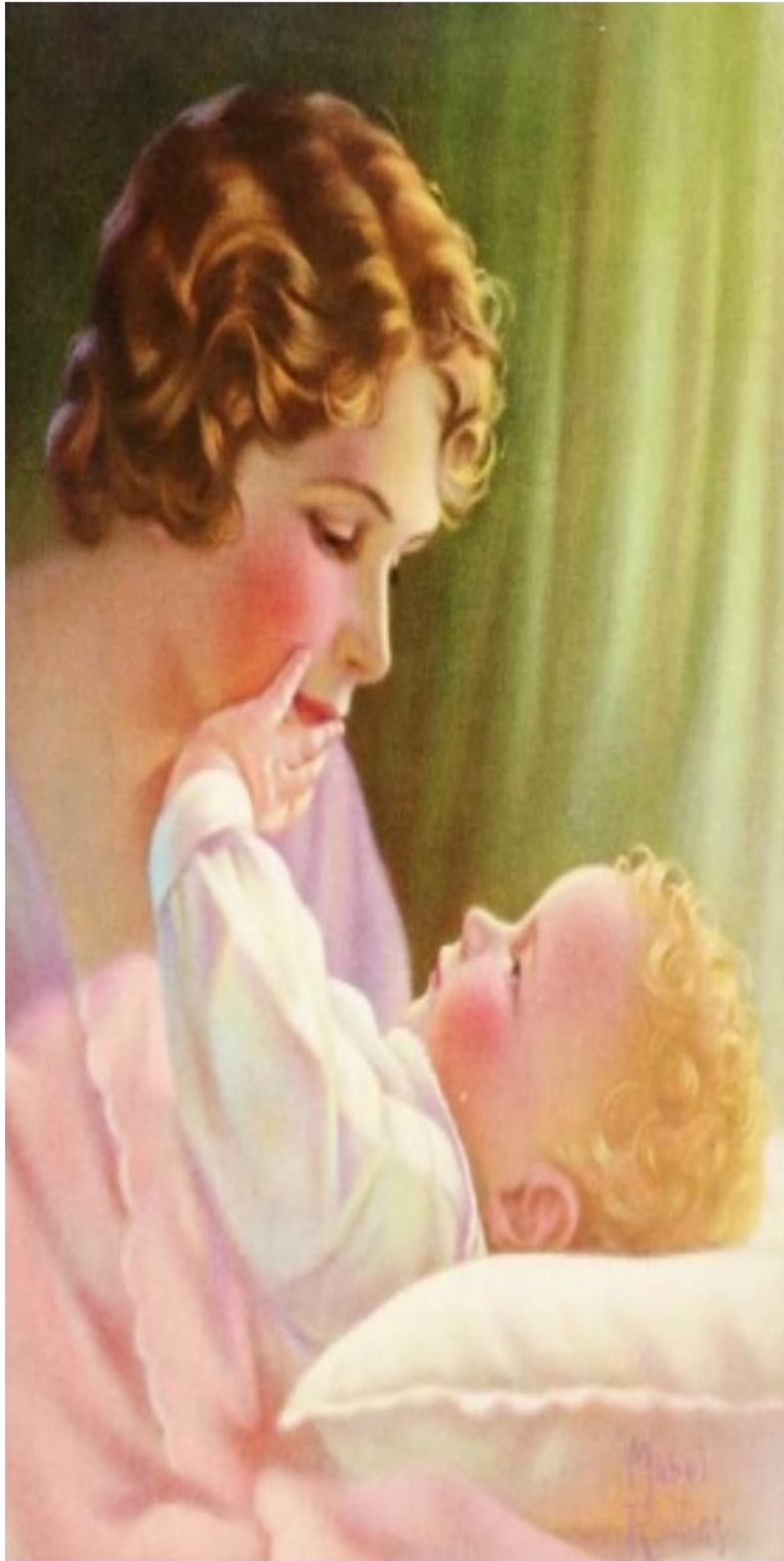
Bill Snider Rose Snider John McDaniel Lisa McDaniel	Marty Buell Wayne Cox Doug Hackett Mary Hennig	Austin Hackett Kenny Smallhorn Ian McDaniel Alesia Smyser	Tom Blair Shelli Blair Dan Bircher Vickie Bicher	Keridwen McDaniel Brandon Schulz Sean Hackett Kenny Smallhorn
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Children's Moment

Carolyn Craig

Jane Cox





There is no love, like a mother's love,
no stronger bond on earth...
like the precious bond that comes from
God, to a mother, when she gives birth.

A mother's love is forever strong,
never changing for all time...
and when her children need her most,
a mother's love will shine.

God bless these special mothers,
God bless them every one...
for all the tears and heartache,
and for the special work they've done.

When her days on earth are over,
a mother's love lives on...
through many generations,
with God's blessings on each one.

Be thankful for our mothers,
for they love with a higher love...
from the power God has given,
and the strength from up above.

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



Happy Mother's Day!

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MAY 2015

Sunday Morning Worship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	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)

www.facebook.com/groups/CharlestonOtterbeinUMC

All are welcome!