

# Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

# THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

SEPTEMBER 2013



Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on these upcoming activities this Fall!

## Family Night Kickoff

Wednesday, September 4 at 6:00pm Something for everyone!!



## **Sunday School Classes**

Resume meeting on **Sunday, September 8** at 10:30am (following Fellowship Time)

Women's Bible Study
Resume meeting on
Tuesday, September 10
at 9:00am



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As fall activities resume, 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  $\odot$ 

### 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* 

# Fern Pearcy

321 West Van Buren Charleston, IL 61920 *Birthday: 6/12* 

### 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* 

## Tom Watson

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

# PASTOR'S CHAT

#### Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I pray this note finds you well and blessed. I hope you all had a restful summer. Hopefully each of you are feeling refreshed as we once again see our Church light up with the Spirit-filled energy of Sunday school, Family Night, and weekday Bible studies.

This summer was a pretty mild one for me. I did get the thrilling time of hanging out with our teenagers at Holiday World back in July. I had only been to an amusement park once in my life, and I had never had the exhilarating experience of being on a roller coaster.

I was very much content with that. I never felt I needed to know what it's like to undergo air time. For you roller coaster novices, that is the experience of being lifted out of your seat as the roller coaster is plummeting 100 feet to the ground.

However, as I was talking to Kenny, Sean, and Sean's friend Wade, I suddenly found myself in a line for the Voyager, the roller coaster with the world record for air time.

In my head, I kept reminding myself that I don't need to panic. This roller coaster is safe. I keep seeing people get on, and then safely get off. Nobody is falling out of the roller coaster. No ambulances have been called. I'm sure the park has procedures to make sure the ride receives regular maintenance. There is no reason to be concerned. But that did not stop me from screaming at Kenny, "WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!!!" as the roller coaster sped to the ground.

It's like those old TV shows like A-Team. Every single week the cast had a new plan to be accomplished, to stop new thugs from doing their thugary. And every week there were always people on the team that had an issue with the plan. How could this plan work, they would question. But at the end of the show, the plan always worked out.

And I would sit there and watch this show, and I knew the plan was going to work out. The plan always worked out. If the main characters died, there wouldn't be any show. But I had no clue how this crazy plan was going to work out.

And we love this about the A-Team. We know somehow the A-Team will make their plan work. But it's still thrilling because we have no clue how. Just like we know we won't die on the roller coaster. We know we won't fall out of the roller coaster. Otherwise we wouldn't get on. But it's still thrilling because you feel like you're about to die.

The problem is we really hate it when this is the reality in our own lives. And if we are honest with ourselves, this is kind of the Christian story. We know there is a plan. We know Jesus is in charge. And we know that plan is going to be worked out. Jesus won't let us down. But it drives us crazy because we have no clue how that plan is actually going to get worked out. We just wish Jesus would fill us in on every turn that our life is going to take.

# PASTOR'S CHAT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

#### **Pastor Nicholas Gleason**

Haven't you been there? Have you ever felt frustrated because Jesus just didn't show up the way you asked him to? You held on to your faith, but you didn't understand his plan. Have you been there? When you cried out, "Jesus, just heal him", or "Jesus, just fix this marriage", or maybe "Jesus, just make this better".

But God just didn't show up. And you couldn't see how this was going to work out. And you just get angry. Because your plan didn't work out. Your plan being, we send for Jesus, Jesus heals, and everything ends happily ever after.

But Jesus doesn't follow that plan. Jesus has his own plan. And let's be honest. Sometimes when Jesus is following his own plan, it hurts. It's painful. Because it's not the quick solution we wanted. It's not the easy out we were looking for. And we don't understand why it has to be this way. And we just want to say, Jesus I don't like your plan.

There is this passage in the Gospel when Lazarus was dying. Martha and Mary cried for Jesus to come and heal him. But Jesus waited two whole days before he went. Within those two days, Lazarus died. When Jesus arrived, Martha and Mary were upset. They wept because Jesus didn't come and help. Jesus wept to.

But why did Jesus weep. I don't think it was because of Lazarus. He knew Lazarus was going to be ok. He knew he was going to bring Lazarus back to life. I think he wept because of Martha and Mary. Martha and Mary wanted Lazarus saved. Because they didn't want to deal with the pain of losing him. Not to see the glory of God.

And I looked, and I can't find anything in the Scriptures that says you have to like his plan. You are asked to believe. You are asked to believe in him. You are simply asked to believe that his plan will work out.

After Jesus brought Lazarus back to life, he said to them, "Did I not tell you, that if you believed, you would see the glory of God."

See, they wanted Jesus to come to make our life perfect. To take away our struggle and wipe away our every tear. But Jesus came for a bigger reason than that. Jesus came to fix it all.

This story about Lazarus is more than just about raising some dead guy. This is a story about what Jesus is doing for you. This is a story about the brokenness in your life that he fixes. This is a story about the pain that he heals. This is a story that is about what Jesus is all about. This is a story about how Jesus has a plan to take away all your pain and all you're suffering. And it is a plan that will happen. And it is a plan that will come to be if you believe in him.

And you may sit there, and you may be facing something that feels like it's going to break you. But in the end, the plan Jesus has will prevail. And if you hold on to him, he will bring you through.

Shalom,

Nicholas

# LAY LEADER'S LINE

#### **Butch Hackett**

Have you ever 'Googled" the phrase 'persons of influence'? I did and the first thing on the list was an article from Time Magazine entitled 'The 100 Most Influential People' published in April 2013. The list was very diverse. Icons from politics, music, acting, world leaders, etc were on the list, however, nowhere on the list did I see any religious leaders.

I was reminded of a story that I told and written before, but I think it's worth repeating. This was a true story of a church (I forget the name and location) that was having a missionary from Africa come and speak at the church. The church was asking for donations from the members to prepare a gift box to give the missionary to take back to Africa. All sorts of needed supplies were given and the head of the Outreach was preparing the box when a little 4 year old girl came up and said, "I emptied my coin purse and want to give you the money for the poor people." Touched by the gesture, the head of the outreach thanked the little girl and gave her a hug. The girl had given a nickel and 5 pennies. The outreach chair was wondering what she could get for 10 cents. She went to her local Christian book store and found a Bible tract about salvation and it was a dime. So she bought the tract and put it in the box and gave it to the missionary the following Sunday. A few months passed and the outreach chair received a letter from the missionary sharing this story. It seems the 10 cent Bible tract found its way into the hands of the chief of a cannibalistic tribe. The tract was translated into his language and he received Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Not only the chief, but he also converted his whole tribe! All of these events resulted from the actions of the 4 year old girl.

In 2 Kings Chapter 5: 1-15, we see another example of the actions of a young girl. We don't know her age, her name or for that matter much about her. But, we do know the results of her actions. Naaman was a great commander of the army of the king of Aram and highly regarded by not only his master but everyone. It seems he had leprosy. A young girl from Israel had been taken captive by Naaman's army and Naaman had her be the servant to his wife. Upon discovering Naaman had leprosy, this young servant girl told her mistress that if Naaman would go the prophet who lived in Samaria (Elisha) he could heal Naaman. You can read the whole story for yourself, but the bottom line is that Naaman was healed. The little girl's faith and her brief statement, even though she was very insignificant from the world's viewpoint, brought healing and faith to this powerful Aramean captain. God had placed her for a purpose, and she was faithful. Can you imagine being taken from your home and family at a young age to be a slave? Most of us would not blame her for being bitter or upset or distraught and letting her master die. But she realized that God had a plan and she was bold enough to act on it. Where has God placed you? No matter how humble or small your position, God can use you to spread His word. Look for opportunities to tell and share what God can do. There's no telling who will hear!

In His Grip,

Butch



### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

It is when we forget ourselves that we do the things that are most likely to be remembered!

# Intentional Faith Development



Something for EVERYONE!!

September 4<sup>th</sup>

6:00pm



\*\* Road Rally for the <u>Youth</u>

\*\* Games for the Kids

\*\* Fellowship & Intro to Fall Season for the <u>Adults</u> (Sack lunch provided for each age group)



# <u>Women's</u> <u>Bíble Study</u>

All women are invited to attend Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 9:00am w/ Sandy Smallhorn

\*Beginning September 10

## 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 (6<sup>th</sup>~12<sup>th</sup> 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



Sunday School classes will resume on <u>September 8</u>. The only exception is the Adult Class led by Jim & Carolyn Craig will start up again on September 29, due to family vacation. The other Adult Class led by Butch Hackett will still be available when classes begin again.



# Please stay and share with us in <u>Fellowship Time</u> 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 ©



#### SEPTEMBER'S WEDS FAMILY NIGHT SCHEDULE

• <u>Sept 4, 6 pm</u> – Family Night Kickoff (see details in another section of the newsletter).

Kickoff for the whole family (indoors or out, depending on the weather)!



• \*Sept 11, \*Sept 18, & Sept 25, 6 pm – Meal in the Fellowship Room, with age-level breakout groups meeting afterward at 6:30 pm.

\*Exception: Because the Craigs are not available to lead the Mens/Womens group on Sept 11 or 18, the adults will delay their start date until Sept 25<sup>th</sup>, which will be our first "Activity Week" (read more about the Mens/Womens Group Weds evening rotation schedule below).

#### **General Family Night Information:**

**2013-14 Family Night Calendar**: Weds, Sept 4 – May 21, w/breaks for Thanksgiving (Nov 27); Winter Break (Dec 11–Jan 1); Ash Weds/Spring Break (Mar 5&12); Holy Week (Apr 16).

- Meals (6 pm) How you can help:
  - 1) Sign up to bring an entrée (see Carolyn Craig, she'll be recruiting very soon);
  - 2) If you aren't able to prepare an entrée, but wish to pay for one (burgers, pizza, subs etc that we can pick up), please give entrée money to Carolyn Craig. (Approx: \$35 to \$40;)
  - **3)** Donate cake/brownie mixes, frosting, peanut butter/jelly, salad dressings, pudding cups, Rice Krispies, marshmallows, and canned fruit. (*Place them on the shelves marked "Family Night Supplies" in the room across from the kitchen*);
  - **4)** Donate \$\$ for Family Night paper/plastic supplies & teaching resources. Cash in an envelope, or a check marked "Family Night", can be placed in the offering plate.
- Youth & Elementary Groups—(6:30-7:30 pm) The youth (w/Adam Baker & Sean Hackett), and the elementary group (w/Jane Cox) will continue much the same as last season.
- Adults-(6:30-7:30 pm) Men's/Women's group will join together this season (w/the Craigs).
  - **A Lesson Week** Using a book entitled "Bible Answers For Almost All Your Questions".
  - <u>A Missions/Outreach Week</u> Visit a shut-in; or take an evening to write short notes or sign cards of encouragement, and mail them to a shut-in or homebound person; or do a missions project night. (That's just a small sampling of ideas).
  - <u>A Library Week</u> Craigs will be lining up a person(s) ahead of time to go into the library and choose a book or a magazine article to read, and then share with us something of interest from what he/she reads. You might even get to witness a hands-on inspirational lesson by means of a recipe prepared on the spot from one of the library cookbooks—then you'll get to taste the finished product.
  - An Activity Week This can be as simple as a Talent Night with all ages; or a Corn Hole or Hillbilly Horseshoe Tournament. It might also be a projects' evening, in conjunction with a missions project, where we assemble items such as:
    - ✓ <u>Ready-to-Go Packs for the Homeless/Needy</u> Fill bags w/water bottles, non-perishable snacks, wash cloths/toiletry items, & an encouraging card, etc. Make them available to the congregation to hand out when there's a need.
    - ✓ <u>Bless those who regularly serve others</u> Make something special for the S.S. teachers; bring flowers/assemble a bouquet for the church secretary, etc.
    - ✓ <u>White-out Shower</u> Collect anything "white" ahead of time (i.e. Kleenex, napkins, toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, cotton balls, Q-tips, kitchen towels, sheets, laundry soap, athletic socks, light bulbs... get creative). Spend an evening assembling them in packs of like-items to donate to a place such at Standing Stone... and more ideas!
- <u>5<sup>th</sup>-Wednesday-of-the-Month Special (Prayer & Praise Evening)</u> Oct 30, 2013 & April 30, 2014 are "5<sup>th</sup>-Weds-of-the-month". This will be an "all-church" spontaneous evening... singing your favorite hymns or other songs; special music, or simply sharing "what God has been up to in your life lately" moments.

# Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...



## Soda Can Covers

Sherry Strode is sewing soda can covers that she would like to sell for 50 cents each. These are great for keeping out bugs when you are outside enjoying the weather © She plans to donate all the proceeds to Otterbein. Please see Sherry if you are interested in making a purchase!

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We need volunteers who are willing to lead a Children's Message during Sunday Morning Worship. We have several people who currently rotate once/month, but we still have about 7 spots to fill for the remainder of 2013.

You are welcome to share a message on any topic you would like, or you can follow the scripture/sermon for the morning. There are many resources and ideas available on

the internet if you would like the extra help © Please see Samantha Baker for more information.



# Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (October 2013) will be printed and distributed around the end of September. The deadline to submit articles or information in the October newsletter will be <a href="Ihursday">Ihursday</a>, September 19. Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office if you have information to include.

Jerry Payne (Trustee Chair) has reported that the mold problem under the sanctuary has been resolved. We praise God that most of the funds have been received to cover the costs, but we still have a balance remaining of approximately \$1,760. Please prayerfully consider contributing to the Capital Improvement fund to help defer these costs so we do not have to set up a repayment plan. Thank you for your gifts that we have received so far!



## **Please Note!**

If you need to reach Pastor Nicholas:

<u>Cell Phone:</u> (740) 513~6199 Home Phone: (217) 345~2046

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

### **ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT**

Annual Conference, June 5-8, 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. But the worship times this year were special.

The conference was presided over by our new 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, Compensation and Health Care guidelines 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 church parsonage vs. housing allowance. Decisions were made that the local church must provide one or the other. Since Otterbein provides a parsonage, we are in full compliance.

I was so impressed with the leadership of Bishop Keaton. Not only did he preside fairly and efficiently, when procedures slowed or became confusing, he would break out in singing "Jesus Loves Me" or "Amazing Grace" or he might just go to the Lord in prayer for the situation.

Guest speaker, Dr, J. Clif Christopher, addressed the conference on two occasions. The main theme of his presentations were financial stewardship and giving. He hit home in pointing out that church finances involve both the pastor and the laity—it takes all of us to provide for ministry and mission as defined by the local church, i.e. Otterbein. He stated that "The tithe is a Biblical Standard" and must be practiced if the church is expected to be about changing lives, both within the congregation and outside it's walls.

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

--Jim Craig

## THANK YOU

There is no way to write my feelings without it sounding like a jumbled mess. To start, I would like to say that there isn't a way I could fill this page with enough "thanks" to show my appreciation for all that I've been able to do this summer. Otterbein has provided all the youth so many opportunities to serve, learn, and fellowship in God's presence. It truly is a blessing to have such a supportive church family. It's also been a blessing to be able to grow in my faith along with the others in the church. The mission trip is the most obvious example of this.

Taking a week off to go work on houses in 90 degree weather doesn't exactly sound like anyone's idea of "fun." Although I wasn't exactly worried or scared, I was nervous about what was to come. I had no idea what "mission work" would entail. But when Derek started making fun of me before we had even left the parking lot, I knew the week would be great no matter what.

God was definitely with us on that trip. We had fun and got to know each other better all while doing work for Him. Once again, that trip would not have happened without the support from the church.

The church also fronted the money for Holiday World on a short notice. I can definitely say that was something that means a lot. Although this sounds cheesy, I'll definitely have memories of that trip for the rest of my life. If you don't believe me, just imagine Pastor Nick running through the lazy river because he can't get on the tube! His excuse was that he needed to keep his dignity because the "ladies were watching." The old guy chasing the group of teenagers trying to keep up was definitely making the "ladies" watch. It was worth paying to watch him in an amusement park.

I understand that we're already in a pinch for money, and the fact that the youth were so well taken care of hasn't gone unnoticed. I know I can speak on the entire youth groups' behalf when I say "thank you."

--Kenny Smallhorn

# FINANCE REPORT

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

## **LOOSE PLATE/TITHE**

	Amt Received	Amt Needed	Over/(Short)
7/7	\$ 2,310.27	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 125.27
7/14	\$ 1,423.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 762.00)
7/21	\$ 913.51	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,271.49)
<u>7/28</u>	\$ 1,233.25	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 951.75)
TOTAL	\$ 5,880.03	\$ 8,740.00	(\$ 2,859.97)





### **BUILDING FUND**

#### **Current Balance**

7/7	\$ 2,406.69
7/14	\$ 1,170.14
7/21	\$ 1,230.14
7/28	\$ 1.290.14

Monthly Mortgage Payment \$ 1,356.55

# 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
Worship Service	\$ 30.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,729.00
Weekly	\$ 2,182.25

And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

-- Acts 2:44-47 (ESV)

# Celebrations

# <u>Birthdays</u>

9/4	Noah Baker
9/5	Andrew Bircher
9/8	Raymond Johns
9/8	Betty Potts
9/8	Sean Hackett
9/8	Stephen Ray
9/11	Larry McGrath
9/14	Tabytha Toothman
9/18	Paula Dennis
9/18	John McDaniel
9/18	Jordan Blair

9/20 Elizabeth Snider 9/23 Tina Whitecotton 9/24 Tiffany Fitzpatrick 9/26 Carolyn Craig 9/26 Mackenzie Blair 9/28 Lucy Smallhorn 9/28 Jaden Anderson 9/28 Gabe Menser





# No Anniversaries this month!

Ushers & Greeters







# \*\* \* \* \* SEPTEMBER 2013 \* \* \* \* \* \*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	2 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	3 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	4 Noah Baker Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm Family Night 6:00-7:30pm AA Mtg 8:00pm	5 Andrew Bircher  Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	7
8 Raymond Johns Betty Potts Sean Hackett Stephen Ray Worship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am	9 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm Finance Mtg 6:30pm	10 Women's Bible Study 9:00am Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm Nurture Mtg 6:00pm	11 Larry McGrath Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm Family Night 6:00-7:30pm AA Mtg 8:00pm	12 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	13 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	14 Tabytha Toothman
Worship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am	16 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	17 Women's Bible Study 9:00am Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	18 Paula Dennis John McDaniel Jordan Blair Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm Family Night 6:00-7:30pm AA Mtg 8:00pm	19 Newsletter Articles Due  Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	20 Elizabeth Snider  Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	21
Worship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am	23 Tina Whitecotton  Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	24 Tiffany Fitzpatrick Women's Bible Study 9:00am Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	25 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm Family Night 6:00-7:30pm AA Mtg 8:00pm	26 Carolyn Craig Mackenzie Blair  Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	27 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	28 Gabe Menser Lucy Smallhorn Jaden Anderson
29 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	30 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm					

# THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

SEPTEMBER 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