



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

AUGUST 2011

Back to School!

Please remember to pray for our teachers, students, parents and families as another school year is about to begin! May God bless our teachers and students with patience, wisdom and joyful hearts in the coming school year!

The best teachers teach from the heart, not from the book. ~Author Unknown

As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in schools. ~Author Unknown

Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school. ~Albert Einstein

Home computers are being called upon to perform many new functions, including the consumption of homework formerly eaten by the dog. ~Doug Larson

You learn something every day if you pay attention. ~Ray LeBlond

I am always ready to learn although I do not always like being taught. ~Winston Churchill

The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live. ~Mortimer Adler

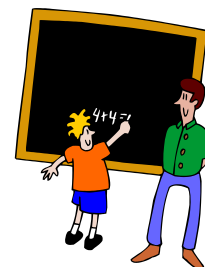
The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires. ~William Arthur Ward

If a doctor, lawyer, or dentist had 40 people in his office at one time, all of whom had different needs, and some of whom didn't want to be there and were causing trouble, and the doctor, lawyer, or dentist, without assistance, had to treat them all with professional excellence for nine months, then he might have some conception of the classroom teacher's job. ~Donald D. Quinn

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops. ~Henry Brooks Adams

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PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason



A passion of mine is backpacking through Europe. I travel to Europe every February to immerse myself in the culture, history, arts and, of course, the food! During my last trip overseas I was walking through the streets of Lisbon, Portugal, when I found myself standing right where ordinary people – ordinary mothers, ordinary fathers – faced armed soldiers with nothing but flowers in their hands.

I was sitting at a coffee shop and I had met a new friend, Isabel. I asked her to show me her home – the real Portugal, not the tourist traps. She took me to the Largo do Carmo, a public square, where the military met face to face with the tyrant dictator and his secret police on April 25, 1974.

As the two sides came to a standoff on that square, the possibility for bloodshed was anticipated. Both the government and the military begged the people to stay away from the possible violence. They came out anyway. Not for civil war, but for peace. The people came with red carnations. And they put the carnations in the barrel of the guns as a way to prevent the bloodshed in their streets.

And as I stood in that square, where ordinary people stood up for peace, I thought to myself, *how did they have the audacity to do that?*

Recently I saw a documentary about the event in June 1989 that captivated the world when a single, solitary Chinese man stood in Tiananmen Square in front of a whole row of tanks. And at least for a moment, his presence stopped this row of tanks.

I'm sure you probably watched the scenes at the beginning of the year as the people of Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, and Iran demonstrated and exercised their power to bring about a new way of life.

And one of the things these images have brought to my mind lately is what causes somebody to stand in front of guns with nothing but flowers...or a row of tanks with nothing at all...what causes people to come out in the streets to demonstrate against a tyrant known for brutalizing his opponents?

Yes, they want a better life. But to stand up against high powered machine guns...armored tanks... ruthless dictators. *That's not normal!* Common sense tends to keep us away from danger. Common sense doesn't tell us to go make ourselves into human road blocks as a row of tanks is coming down the street. So what caused these people to ignore common sense and to stand up against tyrants?

It must have been their hearts. *They must have been so moved* that there was nothing else they could do...but stand in that square...in front of those tanks...against those tyrants.

And as I stood there where those ordinary people changed history, it made me wonder how we live out our faith. Do we really live from our heart? Certainly, we say we love Christ and we invite Jesus into our life. We say we want to share that freedom that only he can offer us. But talk is cheap.

I think we can only truly begin to answer this question by asking ourselves this: When was the last time you took a risk for God? The last time you put it all out there for your faith?

Now, Rahab is a great story because she really forces us to ask ourselves, *are we really living from the heart of our faith?* Go back and read the story of Rahab in the book of Joshua. It is an amazing story of a woman who hides the spies of Israel. The king sends men directly to her house and demands to know where the men are. She knows what will happen to her if she is caught disobeying the King. But she takes a risk anyway... for God.

What about us? Are we willing to take that risk for Christ? I don't know about you but I find that question really humbling. I believe and I follow, but I'm not sure how risky I am...how about you?

LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

While channel surfing the other evening, I came across a program showing baby eaglets in their nest. Momma eagle and daddy eagle had laid a dead fish in the nest and had flown off. The baby eaglets were just sitting there squawking, screeching or whatever noise they make telling their parents they were hungry. One of the eaglets decided to chew on a twig that was part of the nest, but soon realized it wasn't doing the trick. A little while later, momma eagle came back and started ripping the fish and feeding small portions to her babies.

God has designed His creation to be reliant on each other at birth. Our grand-daughter, Madison turned two months old this week and we got to see her last Sunday. It's remarkable to see how she has changed in 8 short weeks. Although she still just eats, sleeps and fills her diaper (just like her grandpa, except for the diaper part! I don't depend on Depends just yet!); she is starting to stay awake a little longer. I try to imagine what is going through her little head as she spans the room with her eyes. It looks like she is a little sponge soaking in everything around her. What would happen if the baby eaglets or Madison stayed the way they are and always relied on someone else feeding them?

How about our walk with Christ? When it comes to our spiritual growth, do we only rely on the pastor, Sunday school teacher, praise band, or worship services to provide our nourishment? The writer of Hebrews had this to say about spiritual growth; *"In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."* 5:12-14. Our capacity to feast on deeper knowledge of God ("solid food") is determined by our spiritual growth. Too often we want God's banquet before we are spiritually capable of digesting it. We must train our consciences, our senses, our minds, and our bodies to distinguish good from evil. (Ref.: Life Application Bible footnote) While receiving spiritual food from preachers and teachers is good, spiritual growth and survival depends on knowing how to feed ourselves through daily disciplines such as Bible study, prayer time, and serving others. We need to learn the difference between a fish and a twig!

In His Grip,

Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

To grow tall
spiritually,
we must
first learn
to kneel.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



All kids age 2 through 5th grade (completed) are welcome to attend VBS on August 6, 2011 from 9:00am-4:00pm! Bring your children, grandchildren, friends or neighbors to learn about biblical festivals and explore the Bible as an exciting cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's Word! Lunch and a snack will be provided.



We also need volunteers to help throughout the day to help the children as we travel from each activity center. Please sign up for a 2 hour shift (or more!). Please see Jane Cox ASAP for more details!



FAMILY NIGHT Will Resume

This Fall (date TBA)

Please join us on Wednesday evenings. Each night begins with a delicious meal (at 6:00pm), prepared and furnished by our awesome volunteer kitchen crew! Everyone is invited to share in the meal and fellowship time. Then at 6:30pm, J4J (Kids' Club), LinC (Youth Group), and the Adult Bible Study begins. Child care for ages 2 and under is provided.

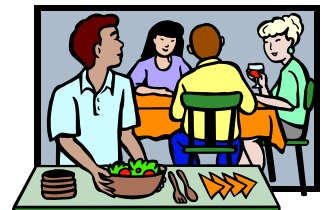
You are welcome to come for the meal only or stay for the entire evening! We would love to have 100% church-wide participation. Family Night is for EVERYONE!

FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesday Evenings
6:00-7:30 p.m.
(Meal from 6:00-6:30)

Join us!!

~ 4 ~



Intentional Faith Development



All Sunday School classes will start up again on September 11.

Please mark your calendars! Classes are available for all ages, Pre-K through 12th grade, as well as the two adult classes. Child care is available (please contact the church office if needed to ensure that we have an attendant on duty ☺).

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have two class options available:

The Believers (led by Butch Hackett) meet in the Fellowship Hall. They are currently studying the book, What Jesus Meant by Garry Wills. You are welcome to join the class anytime, even if you cannot attend every Sunday. They have read the foreword and part of the first chapter of the book; however, you should be able to follow along, as each week's lesson can stand alone ☺

The ???s class will be meeting in the second classroom on the left (the "Café Room"). This class will now be led as a team effort between John McDaniel and Adam Baker. Please feel free to come to this class anytime. The atmosphere is very casual, and we welcome anyone to fellowship with us and share in Bible study/topical conversation.

Women's Bible Study

Sandy Smallhorn will take over the leadership of the Women's Bible Study, which will begin meeting Tuesday, September 13. They will continue to meet at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. This is a great opportunity to grow in your faith and spend time in fellowship with other women!

Update in Leadership

As announced a few months ago, Jim & Carolyn Craig have stepped down from their previous leadership role with the youth ministry team and LinC. Pastor Krista was set to lead LinC this fall; however, our plans were not God's plans ☺ After Pastor Krista's move, Adam Baker volunteered to lead LinC with Pastor Nicholas' help. LinC will begin meeting sometime this fall with the start of Family Night. Stay tuned for further information!



OTHER NEWS



LOOKING AHEAD...

The next monthly newsletter (*September*) will be printed and distributed around the end of August. The deadline to submit articles or information in the September newsletter will be August 22. Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office at charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com if you have information to include.

Flowers for Sunday Service

One way to honor God is to offer fresh flowers each Sunday on the table in the front of the sanctuary. We would like to do this with your help.

You may purchase an arrangement from the florist, which costs \$20-\$30. This can be dedicated as a memorial or a praise offering. You may take the arrangement home after the service. You may donate flowers from your garden: spring flowers—which might include lilacs, irises, peonies, and other blossoms. Bring these in your own vase, and you may take it home after the service.

Those who would like to donate flowers for Sunday service will be signed up for a certain Sunday—a sign-up sheet will be available. Please see Betty Potts.



Meet Bob Stoner...

Kenny and I went to meet with Bob and Betty Stoner. Before we could even ring the doorbell, we were greeted with a friendly hello and a smile. After finding a chair, Betty offered us a glass of iced tea. I said sure. As Betty was getting up, she asked me if I liked it sweetened or unsweet? Bob jumped up and said, "Sit down Mom. You don't know nothing about iced tea." Bob then brings me the best glass of iced tea I have ever tasted.

But more than a great glass of tea, I was transported back to my grandparents' living room where my grandpa would have done the same thing. I was overwhelmed with feelings of love, friendship, and companionship that I don't think I have seen since being in their house. Those feelings can only be generated by a couple who have endured the good, the bad, and the ugly in their marriage. It is something we don't see enough of anymore.

Bob was born in Charleston. His father had married several times and Bob only had one sibling, a half sister named Ruth. He grew up during the depression and prohibition years. Around 1933 or 1934, his father had to shut up their house in town and move out to the river. Bob was around eight years old then. He said his dad was a truck farmer. I wasn't quite sure what that was so I asked. He said his dad would grow watermelon, cantaloupe and fresh produce, and then take them to town to sell them. Hopefully someone in town would have a dime to buy a melon. Occasionally he would take some of the fish they had caught on the river along with him. Bob grew up on the river and never lost his love of fishing.

Sometimes his dad did some bootlegging. He still remembers where his dad would hide his liquor in the basement of their home in town. Betty kind of chuckled and said her dad would bury his liquor in a hole he had dug by a window. Bob said his dad got caught once and he remembered how he and his sister Ruth had to take him sandwiches to the jail house. Now that is some real history!

Bob said he spent a lot of time up at Morton Park. Back then they had a wading pool and he spent a lot of time in it. Other times he played ball with his buddies. He attended grade school at the Franklin School. The building is gone now but Bob still remembered who his first grade teacher was! For four years, there were only 9 kids in his classroom. He said he never got into too much mischief but he did recall sitting on the curb goofing around with his buddy and being tardy to class.

He remembers going over to his uncle's house and playing Monopoly with his cousins, Bill and Betty Harrison (Yaw).

Betty grew up in Mattoon. One of Bob's buddies was dating Betty's sister and he would tag along sometimes. They would take the train from Charleston to Mattoon to visit. Bob had another girlfriend at the time so he didn't right away go for Betty. One night they sat around talking too long and they heard the train whistle. They looked at each other and said, "Well. I guess the train was on time tonight." They ended up walking home.

Shortly after that, Bob had a date with his girlfriend. While on the date, Bob broke up with her and high tailed it over to Betty. They dated for two or three years. Betty said they did a lot of their courting in the rumble seat of Bob's buddy's old coupe.

Bob said his first car was a 1926 Dodge. He bought it off of Cliff Harrison, Bill's uncle. Betty said it looked like an old hearse. It had flower vases on each side and blinds on the windows. Bob said its top speed was maybe 50 miles an hour going downhill. Betty said its brakes didn't work too well so they used the emergency brake to stop. Right after Bob got the car, he pulled up to the gate at the fairgrounds. His car stopped. He had to push it out of the middle of the gate entrance and check how much gas was in it. He found the stick he used to check the gas, stuck it in the gas tank and found out his problem. The stick came out dry, meaning he had run out of gas.

Bob entered the Navy in 1944. He was stationed in Puerto Rico working on airplanes. I asked him if he was a mechanic and he said, "No. I was a dooper!" First thing that went through my mind was I couldn't imagine Bob doing drugs. Then he went on to explain.

Continued from page 7...

A lot of the planes, especially the amphibian planes were made of fabric. The first step was to sew the fabric together. Then came the doping. It was a thick coating of stuff, dope, that was spread over the fabric. It looked like varnish. After about 9 coats of dope, the plane moved on to the painting area. Then last but not least was the plating where they applied the decals.

Bob got out of the service in December 1945 and married Betty in 1946. He said he could have worked anywhere in the USA on airplanes he wanted to, but he said he wanted to come home.

Once home he started his own painting business. In 1951, he met his future partner, and they started Stoner and Lund Painting and Decorating. He and his partner painted the new high school known as CHS now. They painted Pemberton Hall and many others. His partner was interested in the restaurant business. He opened a restaurant in the old bus station. That bus station was the home of Grimes Dodge for many years. That is where Wayne and Jane Cox worked for many years. Then Ken and Sandy Smallhorn opened their carpet cleaning business there for 16 years. Now it is the headquarters for Hackett Carpet Care, Dave and Kim Hackett. It's funny how many times our paths cross over the years.

In 1955, a friend of his came by and told Bob he needed to go to Eastern and apply for a job. Eventually his friend came over, picked him up and said, "Come on. We are going to take you to take the test at EIU so you can get a job." He got the job and worked for EIU for 29 years. He said it was one of the best decisions he ever made.

Bob and Betty went on and had five beautiful children. Paula is the oldest, then Sue, then Robert, then a baby girl that only lived for 3 days, and then Jody. He is very proud of his family. It was his greatest accomplishment he felt. Betty disagreed. She said marrying her was his greatest accomplishment.

In 1988, they moved to Florida. There they liked to go to the flea markets, the festivals (mostly the Strawberry Festival), and even the Florida State Fair. In 1999, they moved back to Illinois so they could be closer to their kids and grandkids. It was important their grandkids knew them personally, not just a card or phone call now and then. They have 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren with a tenth one due very soon.

Recently they went to a Daniel O'Donnell concert in Peoria, IL. Bob said if you ever get a chance to see him, Go! In 1963, Bob and Betty started to attend the same church their daughter Paula was going to. Praise God that was Otterbein UMC. Once they started to attend, they knew this was the church for them. Bob said he was 39 years old when he dedicated himself to the Lord. When they lost their baby girl, Bob said he just knew there had to be something more to life than what he was living. That is when he became a Christ Warrior.

I asked them both how they have made it so many years. Bob said after watching his father wed so many times, he knew it wasn't for him. He gives all the credit to God and to his wife, Betty. He said he realizes now, that if he wanted to go fishing after work, he just took off. He didn't stop to think how much Betty had to handle with four children at home. Now he tries to make it up to her by helping out more. He also said it is recognizing the other person's opinion and being thankful for their differences.

His closing words were: Always give the credit to God. He will meet your physical and mental and financial needs. He will help you maintain a positive attitude and personality even in the most trying times. Always look to God.

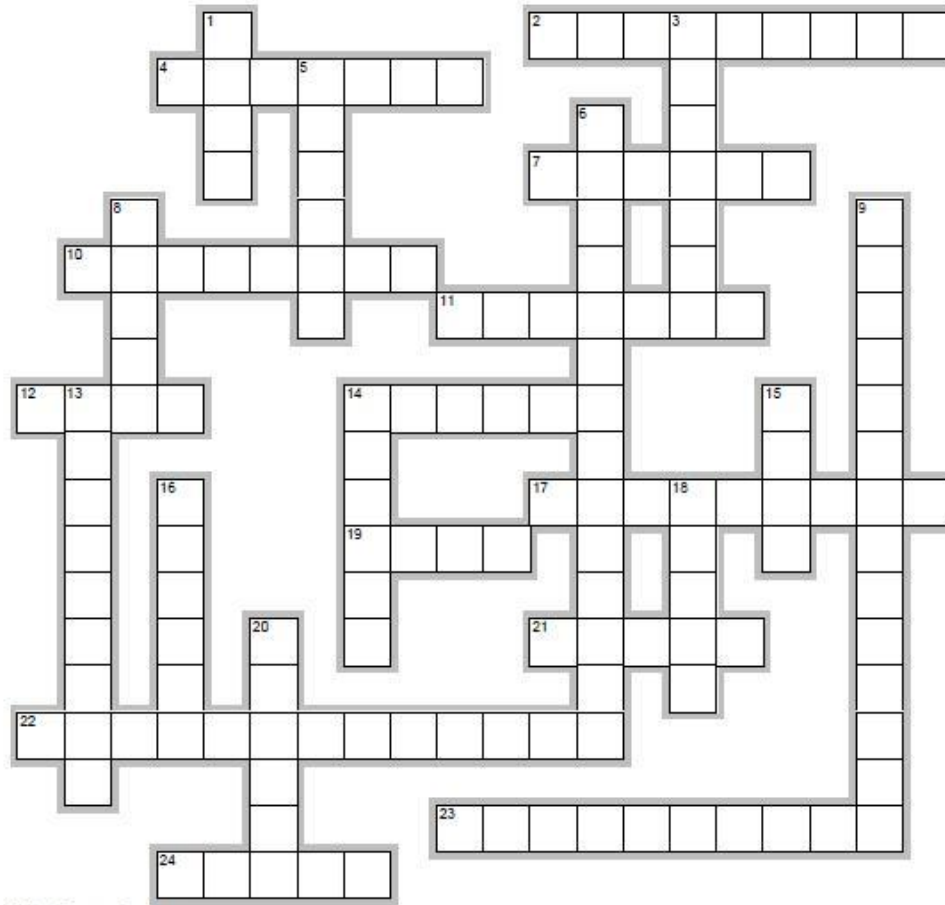
Bob currently resides in Charleston
with his wife Betty.

If you would like to send a special
note or visit, their address is:

**BOB & BETTY STONER
228 N. DIVISION
CHARLESTON, IL 61920**

***Written by Sandy Smallhorn
(Special thanks to Sandy for
this fascinating article about
one of Otterbein's special members! ☺)*

How many of these characters from the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John do you know?



Across:

2. Mother of John the Baptist
4. Man whom Jesus raised from the dead
7. The earthly father of Jesus
10. Short tax collector
11. Tax collector who wrote became a disciple
12. Temple prophetess
14. He found no guilt in Jesus, yet sentenced him to death
17. Father of John the Baptist
19. Doctor and New Testament writer
21. The disciple who was also called Peter
22. Betrayer of Jesus (2 wds)
23. Blind beggar healed by Jesus

Down:

1. The mother of Jesus
3. Father of disciples James and John
5. Peter's brother
6. The forerunner of Jesus (3 wds)
8. The tempter
9. Man who issued decree for census (2 wds)
13. He asked, "How can a man be born again?"
14. The disciple who called Nathanael to follow Jesus
15. Writer of the second gospel
16. Mary's very busy sister
18. He had John the Baptist beheaded
20. Official whose daughter was healed by Jesus

ANSWERS:

Across:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 2) Elizabeth | 12) Anna | 22) Judas Iscariot |
| 4) Lazarus | 14) Pilate | 23) Bartimaeus |
| 7) Joseph | 17) Zacharius | 24) Jesus |
| 10) Zaccheus | 19) Luke | |
| 11) Matthew | 21) Simon | |

Down:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1) Mary | 9) Caesar Augustus | 18) Herod |
| 3) Zebedee | 13) Nicodemus | 20) Jairus |
| 5) Andrew | 14) Philip | |
| 6) John the Baptist | 15) Mark | |
| 8) Satan | 16) Martha | |

Celebrations

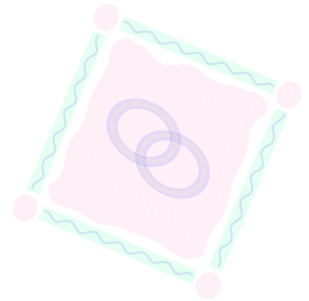


Birthdays

8/6 Mark Rice
 8/8 Bertha Anderson
 8/10 Tom Watson
 8/14 Phyllis Hackett
 8/17 Adam Baker
 8/17 Omarion Johnson
 8/17 Zoey Smyser
 8/18 Shayna Hackett
 8/19 Shelli Blair
 8/23 Kaitlin Mohon
 8/27 Ken Smallhorn
 8/30 Bill Harrison

Anniversaries

8/6 Raymond & Sharon Johns
 8/8 Gabe & Jayna Menser
 8/24 Larry & Melody McGrath
 8/30 Doug & Barb Carr
 8/30 Jared & Samantha Tanner



August Worship Leaders

	<u>8/7</u>	<u>8/14</u>	<u>8/21</u>	<u>8/28</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Bob & Betty Stoner	Rex & Joan Johns	Raymond & Sharon Johns	Doug & Mary Hennig
<u>Acolyte</u>	Alesia Smyser	Debra Bircher	Mackenzie Wilson	Tyvon Johnson
<u>Ushers</u>	Evan Price Adam Baker Derek Hennig Wade Hennig	Rick Waltrip Bill Harrison Harold Hackett Marty Buell	Rex Johns Jim Hackett Toody Hackett Judy Harrison	Jim Craig Bill Snider Larry McGrath Melody McGrath
<u>Family Cross</u>	Randy & Krista Snider	Rick & Sharron Waltrip	Pastor Nicholas	Dan & Vickie Bircher
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Samantha Baker	Carolyn Craig	Sandy Smallhorn	Betty Potts



AUGUST 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Day of Prayer/Fasting <u>Tech 5:00pm</u>	5	6 <i>Mark Rice Raymond & Sharon Johns</i> Vacation Bible School 9:00am- 4:00pm
7 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	8 <i>Bertha Anderson Gabe & Jayna Menser</i> <u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm	9	10 <i>Tom Watson</i>	11 <u>Tech 5:00pm</u>	12	13
14 <i>Phyllis Hackett</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	15	16	17 <i>Adam Baker Omarion Johnson Zoey Smyser</i>	18 <i>Shayna Hackett</i> <u>Tech 5:00pm</u>	19 <i>Shelli Blair</i>	20
21 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	22 Newsletter Articles Due	23 <i>Kaitlin Mohon</i>	24 <i>Larry & Melody McGrath</i>	25 <u>Tech 5:00pm</u>	26	27 <i>Ken Smallhorn</i>
28 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	29	30 <i>Bill Harrison Doug & Barb Carr Jared & Samantha Tanner</i>	31			

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

AUGUST 2011

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday School

9:00 am
10:30 am

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

Phone: (217) 345-5843

Email: charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com

Website: www.charlestonotterbein.org

All are welcome!



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2175 E. Harrison
Charleston, IL 61920

