



# Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

## THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

FEBRUARY 2014



### SUPER BOWL SUBS

The youth will be making and selling Super Bowl Sub Sandwiches on Sunday, February 2 after the worship service. The cost will be \$8.00 and all of the proceeds will go towards the youth group.

Please place your order ahead of time by completing the order sheet on the welcome center table.

The forms can be turned in to Pastor Nick or any of the youths.



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### PANCAKE & SAUSAGE DAY

**Saturday, February 8**

**6:00am-2:00pm**



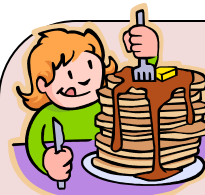
You can't beat an All You Can Eat Breakfast while sharing in a time of fellowship with good company!

Open to the public--

Invite your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors!

**Love offering is accepted.**

Set-up will be Friday evening, February 7. Please see Jerry Payne for information on donating supplies or money and/or volunteering your time to help with set-up, clean-up and serving.



### SUNDAY SUPPER

Otterbein will be providing and serving the Wesley Foundation Sunday Supper on February 9. We will be serving pancakes. Please see Pastor Nick on how you can help.

# PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well and blessed. Since I have been here at Otterbein with you, one of the concerns that repeatedly comes up is building the next generation of leaders. And we are right to be concerned about this mission. Seventy percent of students raised in the church leave the church after high school graduation. Seventy percent! Just let that number soak in. That high of a percentage is shocking and scary. And we can play the blame game to why this number is so high. But clearly, the church is not stepping up. Jesus was not vague about our call to take on the responsibility of fostering the future of the church.

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have taught you. – Matthew 28:18-20

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. – Matthew 12:30

Do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instructions of the Lord. – Ephesians 6

So the question becomes, how can we strengthen our youth so they don't become part of that whopping seventy percent? Well, common trends have uncovered three reasons why young Christians stay in the church after high graduation.

1. Involvement in small groups
2. Families are connected to the church
3. Connected by a spiritual influence beyond their family

Here at Otterbein we are blessed with youth students who share a desire to meet up with each other in small groups. And that comes from the leadership of their families and the friendships they have nurtured with each other.

But the youth must also know and experience this spiritual influence beyond their family. They must know and experience that you love them, and that you value their presence here at Otterbein. And you have the opportunity to help our youth know, experience and appreciate their relationship with our church.

Through your presence and your resources, the youth are asking you to support them as they prepare for a chance to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. This June, we will send six of our youth to the Holy Land. But they cannot make this amazing trip without you. So Kenny Smallhorn has shared this note with me and asked that I share it with you.

# PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

*Our youth group at Otterbein United Methodist Church is planning a weeklong trip to tour parts of Israel over the summer. The itinerary includes a day exploring Nazareth Village, a chance to float in the Dead Sea, as well as a camel ride. There are plans to stop at the tomb that tradition indicates Jesus was born and also a visit to the Garden of Gethsemane, which is where Jesus went to pray after the Last Supper. This is just a few of the many things that are planned for this trip.*

*The majority of the group having never been out of the country, this will be a special trip for us. This trip will help us put what we read in the Bible into perspective. Literally being in The Holy Land will be an excellent chance to strengthen our connection with God too. Many stops include chances to worship and pray.*

*But this amazing opportunity doesn't come without a price. The youth need to come up with roughly \$8,000 to pay for it. We're asking that if you feel led, to donate. Any amount is graciously accepted because it will help to make this trip a reality. We're looking forward not only to going, but also making memories that we can share with you.*

How might you be able to make this spiritual retreat happen for these youth? How can you be that spiritual influence that strengthens these teenagers relationship with Jesus and with our family here at Otterbein? Well let me offer three ways you can ensure that these teenagers do not become part of the seventy percent of high school graduates who leave the church.

1. Support the teenagers with your presence. Show up to their fundraising opportunities.
2. Support the teenagers with your resources. Have you grabbed an envelope off of the wall yet? If not, make sure you do that.
3. Share their dreams with your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Invite others to attend their fundraising events with you. Let our youth see you walk into their spaghetti dinners with a dozen guests. Grab a couple of those envelopes and pass them around to people who you know have a passion to finance the mission of Christ.

I want to challenge you to overwhelm these teenagers with your love and support. I want to see you overwhelm these teenagers with your love and support to the point that their jaws just drop to the floor.

Let's be that church that has each other's back. Let's be that church that makes dreams into memories. Let's be that church that makes sure not one of these teenagers walk away after their high school graduation.

And I promise you, if you offer our young Christians your time and aid, your encouragement will not be overlooked or taken for granted. We will see the future church being built before our very eyes.

Shalom,

*Nicholas*

# LAY LEADER'S LINE

**Butch Hackett**

In Genesis chapter 22, God told Abraham to take his son Isaac to the region of Moriah and sacrifice him there. It was at least a 3 day journey for Abraham, but he went and as he was preparing to stab Isaac on the sacrificial altar, God intervened and spared Isaac. In the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1Kings, Elijah tells a widow to get him some water and some bread. The widow tells Elijah, that she was gathering sticks to prepare one last meal before her and her son would die because they had no food or resources left. But she goes and prepares a small cake of bread for Elijah. God intervened and the widow never wanted for flour and oil again. In Luke 21, Jesus sees a widow give two small copper coins and says that the widow has put more in the treasury than all the others together. Scriptures do not tell us if the widow received any worldly blessings from Godly intervention, but I'm sure the reward waiting for her in Heaven was infinite.

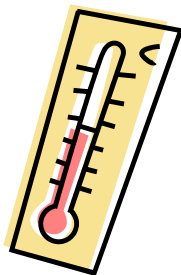
Consider the following scenarios:

- A fellow church member is moving and you say, "If you need any help, let me know." As you leave, you think "Boy, I hope they don't call."
- You get an unexpected windfall of say \$1000 and you know you should give at least \$100 to the church, but there is a new big screen TV that you've been wanting and it's on sale. You would have just enough if you kept the \$100. You go ahead and give the check to church, but in the back of your mind you resent it.
- You have often been complimented for your organizational skills and you enjoy organizing parties, events and conferences. You are asked to take charge of Vacation Bible School and you decline because you cherish your free time too much.

The earthly blessings that were bestowed on Abraham and the widow with Elijah as well as the heartfelt words that Jesus spoke about the widow and her offering were the result of the act not the gift! The strength is in the offering! What we have to offer God is insignificant. How we offer it is what He wants. God's work will go on without our tithes, time and talents. He doesn't need them. He wants willing participants who will love Him with their whole hearts, minds, and souls. The unconditional love of the grace He gives us is what He wants from us. He wants us to give unconditionally in return, whether it's giving to Him or to each other. Love should permeate all we do.

In His Grip,

Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

**Giving is the thermometer of our love.**

# Intentional Faith Development



## FAMILY NIGHT

*Something for EVERYONE!!*


*Bring your whole family!*

### Wednesday Evenings

6:00-6:30pm Meal & Fellowship

6:30-7:30pm Small Groups

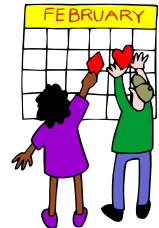
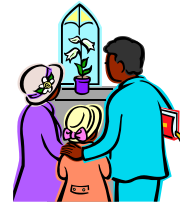
*(All Ages)*



## Women's Bible Study

Tuesday Mornings at 9:00am

w/ Sandy Smallhorn



## **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

(1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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



Please remember to sign-up to bring the refreshments during Fellowship Time. You can sign up as a family or a group of families to help spread the cost 😊

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!



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*

### Joan Hutton

Hilltop Conv. Center  
910 W. Polk Rm. 209  
Charleston, IL 61920  
*Birthday: 4/21*

### Fern Percy

Odd Fellow Rebekah Home  
201 Lafayette E  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
*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*

## 2014 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.

[www.charlestonotterbein.org](http://www.charlestonotterbein.org)

## Please Note!



If you need to reach  
Pastor Nicholas:

Cell Phone: (740) 513-6199

Home Phone: (217) 345-2046

## GET TO KNOW ANDINET

Andinet Haile is the Ethiopian girl that Otterbein U.M. Church supports through World Vision. The youth of this church continue to collect "Pocket Change" on the last Sunday of each month so that support can continue.

The youth began supporting Andinet in 2006 when she was ten years old. She is now seventeen and lives with her mother. Her father is deceased. In school, Andinet enjoys Science the most. At home, she helps with cooking meals. She enjoys playing volleyball. She is in good health in spite of the fact that her community is severely affected by the HIV/AIDS crisis.

We have committed to support Andinet as long as she is in school, and we expect her to continue her education until age twenty-one. Thank you for your generous help through you giving to "Pocket Change". In 2013, we collected \$275.66 and sent \$385.00 to World Vision for Andinet.



# Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...



## Newspapers



Betty Potts would like to thank everyone who has brought newspapers for her. She really appreciates it, and she could always use more if you have extras 😊



## Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer concern that you would like on the prayer list or prayer chain, please contact Pastor Nick or email the church ([charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com](mailto:charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com)) with the name and info to include. We will include the name on the prayer list (back of the bulletin) or it can be emailed on the prayer chain as well. Please also remember to update us when the names can be removed from the list.

With the new year upon us, please be reminded to update the church office if you have changes in your personal information, including addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, etc. You may inform Samantha Baker or email the church at [charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com](mailto:charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com) if you have any updates. Thank You!!

## Looking Ahead...



The next monthly newsletter (*March 2014*) will be printed and distributed around the end of February. The deadline to submit articles or information in the March newsletter will be **Thursday, February 13.** Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office if you have information to include.



The Nurture Team is considering having a Karaoke Night for fun & fellowship with our church family. Stay tuned for further details!



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



# LIBRARY NEWS!

Have you checked it out? The Otterbein library, that is. The shelves have now been painted (thank you, Tom Blair), and they are filled with books (thanks to all who donated such a nice selection).

There are several ways that the library is already being put to good use. Those who come to Soup Stop for a warm meal are enjoying “good reads” from the church library. Vickie Bircher finds books and activities from the library to use with the children with whom she is providing child care on Weds evenings while AA is meeting at the church. On occasion, the folks in the Adult group at Weds Family Nights are asked to select something from the library, read it, and share what they have read with others in the group.

Since 2014 is the year of the Winter Olympics, we’ll be watching them on our TVs very soon! The Family Night Adult Group is also sponsoring an Olympics through the month of February—a “J4J Children’s Olympics Reading Program”. The kids will be encouraged to check out a book from the church library on Weds evenings, or read a book from their school library, public library, or other sources, and get credit for them each week through February. The smaller children may have an adult read aloud to them the books they select. The Gold, Silver & Bronze medals will be awarded to the kids who read the most books, and “Super Star” medals will be given to all kids who participate.

Perhaps we’ll find even more ways to use Otterbein’s library in the future and can report those experiences in the newsletter as well. Hope to see YOU using the library! Happy reading!



*DEW's second CD "Back to Tomorrow" is now available! If you are interested in getting a copy, please contact Doug or Mary Hennig.*





## Sight and Soul for Haiti 2014



Greetings!

Hopefully the New Year is treating you well so far! I wanted to write to you about an opportunity to serve the Lord. As you may already know, I am a first year optometry student and member of [Fellowship of Christian Optometrists at Southern College of Optometry](#). Each year FCO takes a missions trip to an underserved part of the world to provide free eye care, glasses, medications, and God's love to those people who so desperately need it. Last year, twenty-one students traveled to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. In three days, over 700 people's lives were reached with our eye care, free glasses, eye drops, and prayer.

[This May FCO is traveling to Haiti from the 11th-16th](#). We will be partnering with Praying Pelican Missions and the local churches in Haiti. Our main goal is to share the love of Christ through optometry and children's ministry to the people of Haiti. These people do not have routine eye care, and some of them have never seen an optometrist. We will have 21 students, as well as two staff doctors, Dr. Richard Savoy and Dr. Pam Schnell, traveling with us on the trip. As May draws near, we and the local pastors of Haiti grow more excited about the amazing things God is orchestrating. We will spend many hours collecting/sorting/cleaning donated glasses and making glasses for the people of Haiti. There will be many fundraisers such as bake sales, silent auctions, luncheons and Chik-Fil-A breakfasts. We also have been preparing our hearts and minds with Bible studies and serving breakfast for the homeless people of Memphis. I am extremely excited and honored to be a part of the mission team this year.

We know that God will provide for us, but we still need your support. First of all, I/we need prayer! The difference between FCO and other humanitarian eye care organizations is that our primary focus is sharing Jesus. God's love is the reason why we are going, and optometry is the means through which we are sharing His love. Pray that God will use our words and actions to reflect the love of Jesus Christ to the people of Haiti. Secondly, I/we need financial support. The cost of the trip is around \$1300 per person. With more than twenty of us, the total cost of the trip is over \$27,000! This is a big number for college students, but with God no mountain is too high!

**[I would be extremely excited and honored if you partner with me on FCO's 2014 Mission trip to Haiti!!](#)**

Checks can be made payable to "**SCO-FCO**". As an added incentive, your donation will be tax deductible. ☺ Please place my name on the "memo" line on the check to ensure your donation will be used to cover my expenses, while any extra money will go to support others on the trip. **Mail your donations to the address below by March 1, 2014:**

*Derek Hennig*  
1245 Madison Ave.  
Memphis, TN 38104

May God bless you and your family!

***Derek Hennig***

Southern College of Optometry Class of 2017  
[dhennig@student.sco.edu](mailto:dhennig@student.sco.edu) 217-549-6727

*"In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see."*

**Isaiah 29:18**

# 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>
1/5	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 2,011.00)
1/12	\$ 2,299.35	\$ 2,011.00	(\$ 395.85)
<u>1/19</u>	<u>\$ 3,444.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,011.00</u>	<u>\$ 760.50</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 10,029.56</b>	<b>\$ 12,066.00</b>	<b>(\$ 2,036.44)</b>



Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

--Malachi 3:10 (NLT)



## 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)	\$ 92.00
IGRC Missions	\$ 1,053.00
IGRC Pension (Pastor)	\$ 836.00
Childress Mowing	\$ 160.00
Janitor/Secretary Wages	\$ 535.00
Maintenance Supplies	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 40.00
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	\$ 27.00
<u>State Farm Ins. (Bldg &amp; Work Comp)</u>	<u>\$ 285.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,450.00</b>
<b>Weekly</b>	<b>\$ 2,011.00</b>

## BUILDING FUND

### Current Balance

1/12	\$ 3,228.94
1/19	\$ 4,238.94

Monthly Mortgage Payment \$ 1,356.55

# Celebrations



## Birthdays



2/2	Doug Carr
2/9	Eleanor Rice
2/10	Mackenzie Wilson
2/14	Michael Payne
2/16	Bonnie Tribby
2/19	Danny Bircher
2/21	Kimberly Rice
2/23	Kayla Evans
2/25	Krista Snider

## Anniversaries

2/12	Jim & Carolyn Craig
2/14	Rick & Sharron Waltrip
2/15	Bill & Judy Harrison
2/18	Clinton & Bonnie Tribby



## February Worship Leaders

	<u>2/2</u>	<u>2/9</u>	<u>2/16</u>	<u>2/23</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Larry & Melody McGrath	Bill & Rose Snider	John & Lisa McDaniel	Butch & Linda Hackett
<u>Acolyte</u>	Ian McDaniel	Deece Schwartz	Omarion Smallhorn	Mackensie Williams
<u>Ushers</u>	Doug Hennig Mary Hennig Sandy Smallhorn Butch Hackett	Larry McGrath Melody McGrath Bill Snider Phyllis Hackett	Tom Blair Shelli Blair Austin Hackett Sean Hackett	Alesia Smyser Mackenzie Wilson Debra Bircher Keridwen McDaniel
<u>Family Cross</u>	Larry & Melody McGrath	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn	Butch & Linda Hackett	Betty Potts
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Jane Cox	Carolyn Craig	Samantha Baker	Jane Cox





# FEBRUARY 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>Doug Carr</i>  <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am <b>Super Bowl Sub Youth Fundraiser</b>	3  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	4 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	5 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm  <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm  <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	6  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	7  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	8  <u>Pancake &amp; Sausage Day</u> 6:00am-2:00pm
9 <i>Eleanor Rice</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am  <b>Wesley Foundation Sunday Supper</b>	10 <i>Mackenzie Wilson</i>  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	11  <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	12 <i>Jim &amp; Carolyn Craig</i>  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	13  <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	14 <i>Michael Payne Rick &amp; Sharron Waltrip</i>  <b>Valentine's Day</b>  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	15 <i>Bill &amp; Judy Harrison</i>
16 <i>Bonnie Tribby</i>  <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	17  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	18 <i>Clinton &amp; Bonnie Tribby</i>  <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	19 <i>Danny Bircher</i>  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	20  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	21 <i>Kimberly Rice</i>  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	22
23 <i>Kayla Evans</i>  <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am <b>Pocket Change Sunday</b>	24  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	25 <i>Krista Snider</i>  <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	26  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm  <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	27  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	28  <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	

# THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

FEBRUARY 2014

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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](http://www.facebook.com/charlestonotterbein)

**All are welcome!**

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

