



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JANUARY 2012

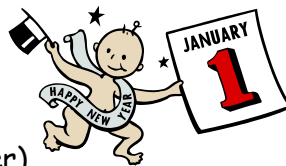
Begin the New Year meditating on these encouraging verses that will hopefully inspire a fresh new walk with God in 2012!
May God bless you and your family!

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

I Peter 1:3 (NIV)

God's loyal love couldn't have run out,
his merciful love couldn't have dried up.
They're created new every morning.
How great your faithfulness!
I'm sticking with God (I say it over and over).
He's all I've got left.

Lamentations 3:22-24 (The Message)



For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

He has made everything beautiful in its time.
He has also set eternity in the human heart;
yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)



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Be still in the presence of the Lord,
and wait patiently for him to act.
Don't worry about evil people who prosper
or fret about their wicked schemes.

Psalm 37:7 (NLT)

Yet those who wait for the Lord
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.

Isaiah 40:31 (NASB)

PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends:

I'm reminded this morning of a story I once heard about a wealthy nobleman. This nobleman lived several centuries ago in a mountain village in Europe. As his life was coming to an end, he began to wonder what legacy he should leave to his townspeople.

He made a good decision. He decided to build them a church. But he kept the plans secret and he would not permit any of the townspeople to go inside the church until it was finished.

At its grand opening, the people gathered and marveled at the beauty of the new church. Everything had been thought of and included. It was a masterpiece.

But then someone said, "Wait a minute! Where are the lamps? It is really dark in here. How will the church be lighted?"

The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls, and then he gave each family a lamp, which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship.

"Each time you are here," the nobleman said, "the place where you are seated will be lighted. Each time you are not here, that place will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God's house will be dark!"

And it's the same with us. What would Otterbein be without you? Definitely, dark, gloom and not all that it can be. Each of you offers so much to our family.

As you work on your New Year's Resolutions, I pray that you are including regular weekly worship in 2012 as one of them. We have many exciting worship services planned throughout the month of January:

January 1st: Epiphany Sunday with a service of poetry and carols along with Wesley's Covenant Service.

January 8th: Remembering the Lord's Baptism and our own.

January 15th: Austin Hackett will fill in while I'm vacationing with family.

January 22nd: The Wild Goose Chase: The Goose Is Free-Are You?

January 29th: The Wild Goose Chase: Escaping the Cage of Responsibility!

Shalom,

Nicholas

LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett



Doesn't it feel good to have the holidays over? You can come home after a long hectic day and get comfortable without the added stress of holiday activities. For me that means putting on my green flannel pajamas with the pictures of elves holding various tools, my gray, orange and blue University of Illinois sweatshirt, and my fluffy house slippers. Then I lay back in my favorite recliner and 'tune-out' the rest of the world as I read, or watch the new flat screen TV Linda bought me. This is the way I like to coast into bedtime. Have you ever been at the height of your 'comfort-zone' and then have company show up unexpectedly? You either rush into the bedroom to put on something more presentable or you apologize for your appearance. Why do we act that way? If you think about it, shouldn't your guests be honored that you are *comfortable* being *comfortable* around them?

In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and him with me." (NIV) I believe that Jesus was saying that He wants to come to where we are most comfortable. He wants to fellowship with us. He wants us to let it all hang-out with Him. I think that is why Jesus was upset with Martha when He went to her home. She was so busy *doing* for Jesus that she didn't have time to enjoy *being* with Him. (Luke 10:38-42) Think about your most intimate relationship. When you first started dating, you would make sure that you looked your best, smelled the best, and you wouldn't dare do anything like 'burp' in front of them. But the true test of the relationship is being around your spouse when they first wake up in the morning. Messy hair, dragon breath, and all! Do you think that is what Jesus was telling Martha? Do you think that is what Jesus is telling us? I think it is. He wants to be there beside us when we are the most relaxed. He wants us to enjoy just being beside Him. Not just when we are hurting. Not just when we need something, and not just when we are extremely happy and thankful either. Take down any false fronts you may have, and enjoy sitting with your Savior. I bet He won't even care if you happen to burp.

In His Grip,

Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

DON'T LET YOUR DESIRE
TO SERVE THE SAVIOR
CAUSE YOU TO NEGLECT HIM.

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



After a brief break during the holiday season,
we will resume Family Night meetings on January 11.

Also, please note that as winter weather approaches, we may cancel Family
Night activities if the roads are too hazardous for travel.

A general rule of thumb: If Charleston schools are closed,
we will definitely not meet for Family Night.

**LET'S START THE NEW YEAR OFF WITH A BANG
AND HAVE 100% PARTICIPATION IN 2012!**

Everyone is welcome to join us
Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 PM, at the church!

Enjoy a delicious meal provided by our group of
volunteer cooks and fellowship with your church family.
Then following the meal, there is something for everyone!

J4J

Jumpin' 4 Jesus
age 3 through 5th grade



LinC

Life in Christ
6th through 12th grade



Women's Group

Currently discussing
Women of the Bible

Child Care

Available in the nursery for
age 2 and younger

Men's Group

Currently discussing the book
The 7 Seasons of a Man's Life

...a time of fun, fellowship and faith!

Intentional Faith Development



Sunday School

10:30am

(following worship & fellowship time)

Classes resume January 8

Attending one of our Sunday School classes is an excellent opportunity to grow in your faith and to fellowship with your church family. We have classes available for all ages! Child care is available in the nursery for age 2 and younger.

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 right)
Led by Sean Hackett

2 Adult Class Options:

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

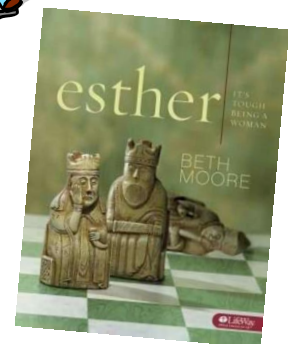
???s Meet in Café Room
(2nd classroom on the left)
Led by John McDaniel & Adam Baker



Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays at 9:00am
Led by Sandy Smallhorn

All women are invited to join the Women's Bible Study on Tuesday mornings. After a brief break over the holidays, we will resume meeting January 10. Please feel free to join our group anytime. This is a wonderful time to share with other women and get to know your church family. We are currently discussing the book What Jesus Meant by Garry Wills.



Adult Bible Study

Thursday Nights at 6:30-8:00pm

A new study will be offered beginning **January 26** and will last 10 weeks. Mary Hennig will lead a Beth Moore study on the book of Esther. There will be a DVD to watch each week, followed by small group discussion. You also need to purchase a workbook, which has personal studies for you to complete 5 days each week. The workbooks are \$15. You must sign up before January 9 if you are interested in this study so it allows plenty of time to order the materials.

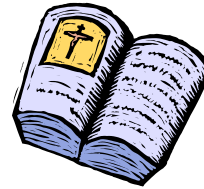
Please see Mary Hennig for more information.

Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...

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).

Jan 2012	Butch & Linda Hackett
Feb 2012	Doug & Mary Hennig; Marty & Loretta Buell
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



Bible Study Update

Please note the following change (since the Dec. newsletter) regarding the Thursday Night Bible Study.

The study on the book Change the World—Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus by Mike Slaughter will be postponed until **after** the Beth Moore Esther Bible Study is completed. The Esther study will last 10 weeks. Stay tuned for further information.



CONGRATULATIONS!!

We would like to congratulate new parents Rachael Bircher and Stephen Ray (and proud grandfather Bradley Bircher) on the birth of their son Landon on December 1, 2011.

Wishing many blessings on baby Landon and his family!!

Every good and every perfect gift is from above.

(James 1:17)



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>
12/4	\$ 2,559.00	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 374.00
12/11	\$ 1,134.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,051.00)
<u>12/18</u>	<u>\$ 2,107.25</u>	<u>\$ 2,185.00</u>	<u>(\$ 77.75)</u>
TOTAL	\$ 5,800.25	\$ 6,555.00	(\$ 754.75)

IGRC Missions:

Yearly: \$ 12,636.00
Amt. Pd YTD \$ (5,265.00)

BALANCE OWING: \$ 7,371.00



BUILDING FUND OFFERING

	<u>Amt Received</u>	<u>Amt Needed</u>	<u>Over/(Short)</u>
12/4	\$ 560.00	\$ 339.15	\$ 220.85
12/11	\$ 70.00	\$ 339.15	(\$ 269.15)
<u>12/18</u>	<u>\$ 710.00</u>	<u>\$ 339.15</u>	<u>\$ 370.85</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,340.00	\$1,017.45	\$ 322.55

Current Balance in Building Fund: \$ 4,484.59

(as of 12/18/11)

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

Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*February*) will be printed and distributed around the end of January. The deadline to submit articles or information in the February newsletter will be **January 19**. Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office if you have information to include.

Meet Jane Cox...

I would have never guessed that Jane Cox began as a farm girl! She grew up in Papineau, IL with her two sisters. Jane was the middle child. On Saturday mornings the girls had to clean the house and then they went to the barn to work.

The family raised show horses. In the summer they traveled around showing them. Can you remember the fire in the International Amphitheater in Chicago around 1968 or 1969? Amazingly only two horses were killed in that fire. Unfortunately they belonged to Jane's family. Jane recalled how hard that was for the family. One of the horses Jane and her sisters had ridden a lot. It was a sad day for her.

Jane's mother was a strict, strong willed woman. She insisted her daughters take piano lessons. Jane said she also took tap dancing, ballet and acrobat lessons. She emphasized she hated dance lessons! She laughs as she recalls a special Christmas present she received. In ballet class the girls were all lined up against the bar, in front of the mirrored wall. The instructor started asking each girl what was their favorite Christmas present was. It was the usual girly stuff, a doll, a tea set, dress up clothes and on. Jane's turn came around and she said her favorite present was her Tonka Trucks! By the way she still has them and they are COOL!

When she was in the eighth grade her school was asked to march in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Chicago. If you aren't familiar with this parade, in Chicago it is comparable to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. It is big. They dye the river green and everyone turns out. Jane was a drum major at the time. It was a proud day for her.

Music was a huge part of her life growing up. She learned to play the trumpet in Junior High and still can. She was in chorus as part of the double trio. A double trio was 2 altos, 2 sopranos, and 2 tenors. The group competed with other schools and did quite well. Church was a big part of Jane's life. On the left of her childhood home was her grandfather's home. On the right of her home was the barn. Next door to that was the United Church of Christ where her family attended. On past the church but not too, far was the railroad. Jane first played in her church when she was in the junior high. She remembers playing the big old Baldwin organ.

Jane's mom taught English at St. Ann's Catholic school. This is where Jane attended high school. Her school was 90% black kids. This was back when race riots were happening in schools. Teachers were instructed to lock their class room doors once class started. When the riots would break out they would destroy the trophy cases in the halls. Jane remembered being on the student council. She was sitting with two other girls, who happened to be black, monitoring the voting table. A riot broke out and they started shoving the table they were sitting at up against the trophy case. One of the girls said, "We better get out of here!" Somehow they managed to get into the principal's office where they were locked in and hid until it was over.

Another time she was sitting in history class. A riot broke out and they actually tried to climb the outside walls looking into the window to see if she was in there. She was ushered into the wardrobe closet and shut the doors to hide her. When they looked in through the windows they told them she was not there. It didn't matter who you were. Her sister was a cheerleader. It only mattered what color you were.

Jane's mother as I stated earlier was very head strong and independent. She would walk down the halls with her purse on her arm and her head held high. Now we know where Jane gets it. Her father was not happy about this because he felt she was not being careful.

Jane had a cousin who had attended EIU. His name was Fred Schroeder. She liked him a lot and he suggested she should come down here to go to school. That is how she came to Charleston. Funny story about that is, once he graduated he taught history at the Charleston Middle School. He was one of Wayne's teachers. I even remember him.

Continued from page 8...

Jane's new found freedom from the farm proved more than she could handle. Like many college students, she found a life of partying more fun. At one particular bar she met a bar tender who was different than anyone else she had met. He was kind of shy and more of a gentleman. She didn't find many nice guys in the life style she was living. His name was Wayne Cox. Picture this. Wayne was the clown for the rodeo bull event that was held at the bar he worked at.

Jane finally asked him out in September. By November they were engaged and in March they were married. Now that my friends is true love!

Jane's first car was a 1973 Buick Skylark, 2 doors, with a 3 speed on the column. Not bad. Then her father bought her a 1969 Bonneville convertible which she loved. When they married Jane was without a vehicle and they used Wayne's car. All she remembers about that car was it was black, with a sun roof. They had Jayna by now and every time they turned to do something for her they would hit their heads on the sunroof. It was a two door and she absolutely hated that car. It wasn't long until they graduated to a much more family oriented vehicle, a Plymouth Station Wagon.

Wayne started out as a bar tender. From there he managed the Sav a Lot store Bill Shaffer owned which was located where What's Cookin is now. In 1982 he went to work for Grimes Dodge where his wife had been working since 1978. He started as a delivery driver for the parts store. From there he worked his way up to Service manager.

Together they had four beautiful daughters, Jayna, Rachel, Kendra, and Hillary. They wanted a boy but they were happy with their girls. Family became a huge factor in their life. They loved to go camping at Mill Creek. They did the tent camping, cabin camping and even the pop up tent camping. They loved to fish. Jane fondly recalls Hillary being 2 or 3 yrs. old wearing her life vest and casting her line off the back of the boat.

Somewhere around 1993 the stock car racing bug got a hold of them. So with the same enthusiasm as camping the family became stock car fans. At first they started out as spectators. I can remember seeing them there because Ken and I worked there as the score keepers and time trials. Any Saturday night during the season you will see them cheering on their favorite drivers, which happens to be their son in laws. For some time Wayne even drove in the races.

In 1981, Jane was invited to go to church with her co-worker at Grimes. His name was Brad Henson. She went and never left. After her and Wayne married he started too. The church was the Otterbein United Methodist.

I asked her what the church meant to her. She said, "It is a part of her life, just like going to Wal-Mart or the races. You do it because it is who you are. During her sister's death she said she would have never made it through it if it wasn't for her church."

Jane shared a lot of personal things. She shared that her faith has really brought her through. She also has an earthly rock in Wayne. He always makes her smile even in the worst of times. He is her calming force reassuring her things will be alright.

What I took away from my visit with Jane and hearing her private testimony was God will never abandon you! He will remain faithful and he will forgive you no matter what you have done. Jane laughed and said she is well aware that she is head strong and rigid. But she loves this church and everyone in it. I personally praise God for giving us Jane.

***Written by Sandy Smallhorn*

(Special thanks to Sandy for this fascinating article about some of Otterbein's special members!)

~ 9 ~

Jane and her husband Wayne currently reside in Charleston. If you would like to send a special note or visit, their address is:

**WAYNE & JANE COX
754 12TH STREET
CHARLESTON, IL 61920**

Celebrations



Birthdays

1/2	Joan Johns	1/16	Marty Buell
1/4	Randy Rice	1/22	Debra Bircher
1/5	Cathi Brockman	1/26	Tabatha Bircher
1/7	Natalie Holloway	1/26	Kaden Donley
1/9	Derek Hennig	1/31	Rex Johns
1/12	Gino Bellantoni	1/31	Barbara Carr
1/15	Jim Hackett		

*We have no
Anniversaries
in the month
of January!*

January Worship Leaders

	<u>1/1</u>	<u>1/8</u>	<u>1/15</u>	<u>1/22</u>	<u>1/29</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Dorothy Cox & family	Betty Potts & Cathi Brockman	Rick & Sharron Waltrip	Harold & Phyllis Hackett	Doug & Mary Hennig
<u>Acolyte</u>	Kenny Smallhorn	Keridwen McDaniel	Debra Bircher	Christopher Schulz	Brandon Schulz
<u>Ushers</u>	Butch Hackett Jim Hackett Austin Hackett Sean Hackett	Adam Baker Jim Craig Rex Johns Wayne Cox	Brad Bircher Derek Hennig Sandy Smallhorn Cathi Brockman	Mary Hennig Rose Snider Becky Rice Betty Stoner	Shelli Blair Samantha Baker Wade Hennig Dan Bircher
<u>Family Cross</u>	Pastor Nicholas	Jim & Bertha Anderson	Bill & Judy Harrison	Rex & Joan Johns	Bob & Betty Stoner
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Jane Cox	Carolyn Craig	Sandy Smallhorn		Pastor Nicholas



JANUARY 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	2 <i>Joan Johns</i>	3	4 <i>Randy Rice</i>	5 <i>Cathi Brockman</i> <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u>	6	7 <i>Natalie Holloway</i>
8 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	9 <i>Derek Hennig</i> <u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm	10 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	11 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	12 <i>Gino Bellantoni</i> <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u>	13	14
15 <i>Jim Hackett</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	16 <i>Marty Buell</i>	17 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	18 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	19 Newsletter Articles Due <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u>	20	21
22 <i>Debra Bircher</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	23	24 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	25 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	26 <i>Tabatha Bircher</i> <i>Kaden Donley</i> <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-8:00pm	27	28
29 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	30	31 <i>Rex Johns</i> <i>Barbara Carr</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am				

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

JANUARY 2012

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)
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www.charlestonotterbein.org (webpage)



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All are welcome!

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