



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

MARCH 2015

PASTOR'S PERUSALS

By Chuck Trent

IT IS GOOD TO BE AMONG THE UPRIGHT AND MOBILE AGAIN. While the healing of the broken hip suffered in January is still tiring and taking place, I am able to get around without the walker or the cane. Thanks so much for your prayers, patience and many kindnesses. I hope you have all felt connected as I have been working from the parsonage. It is my office at home.

ON A SNOWY COLD DAY IN FEBRUARY, Linda and I drove Route 16 to Shelbyville and back. Linda was driving so I could check out the windy, weather and God's beautiful, but cold, winter artistry. One thing that I noticed was the way the snow raced across the semi-cleared road creating an actual road hazard some places and at other places there was no snow coming anywhere the road.

ROUTE 16 BETWEEN COLES AND SHELBY COUNTY, is flatter than a pancake griddle with few trees near the road. So why was there snow some places and not others? I watched carefully to solve this seasonal mystery. The answer was surprisingly obvious. The snow blown sections of the road ran past harvested soy bean fields with virtually nothing of any height left on the fields. The clear sections of the road were next to harvested cornfields that had acres of short, stalk, stubble sticking up no more than two or three inches, but together it was more than enough to slow down the wind and catch the snow, trapping the precipitation for warmer weather when it would melt into the soil.

OTTERBEIN UMC is a lot like the harvested cornfields. We aren't very big, but when we stand together doing what God has called us to do, we can make a big difference. We can slow down the winds that drive people away from God. We can provide a safe place, away from the dangers of life's roads, for people who are blown from pillar to post and away again.

GOD USES US IN MANY WAYS THAT WE DON'T EVEN realize even in the dead of winter. We can be part of God's plan if we just stand together supporting the efforts of each other to grow and find God's mission and purpose for our own lives and the life of God's congregation at Otterbein UMC.

Shalom,

Chuck

LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

To date, two of my grand-daughters, Mackensie and Madison have been taught that before they cross a street, get out of a car, or leave a business, they must hold one of the adult's hands. I usually say something like, "Hold Papaw's hand tight." Of course I would never rely on their grip of my hand. Instead, it is my grip of their little hands that holds them and keeps them secure.

In Philippians 3:12, Paul writes, "*.....I press on to take hold of that which Christ Jesus took hold of me.*" In other words, Christ has a grip on me. One thing is certain: It is not our grip on God that keeps us safe, but the power of Jesus' grasp. No one can take us out of His grasp – not even the devil, not even ourselves. Once we are in His hands, He will not let us go. In John 10: 27-29, Jesus tells the religious leaders, "*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.*"

Doubly safe: Our Father on one side and our Savior on the other, clutching us with their impenetrable grip. The same hands that formed the heavens, shaped the earth, molded the mountains, and scattered the stars. Nothing in this life or the next "*shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus or Lord.*"
(Romans 8:39)

(Still) In His Grip,

Butch



Sight and Soul for Nicaragua 2015



Greetings!

Hopefully this New Year is finding you well! I wanted to write to you about an opportunity to serve the Lord! As you may already know, I am a second 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-eight students traveled to Les Cayes, Haiti, and in three days, over 800 people's lives were reached with our eye care, free glasses, eye drops, and prayer.

[This May FCO is traveling to Nicaragua from the 9th-15th](#). We will be partnering with Chosen Children Ministries and the local churches at our destination. Our main goal is to share the love of Christ through optometry and children's ministry to the people of Nicaragua. These people do not have routine eye care, and some of them have never seen an optometrist. We will have thirty-one students, five family members, and three staff doctors, Dr. Richard Savoy, Dr. Janet Dumas, and Dr. Benjamin Brenner, traveling with us on the trip. As May draws near, we and the local pastors of Nicaragua 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 Nicaragua. 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 Nicaragua. Secondly, I/we need financial support. The cost of the trip is \$1525 per person. With 39 people going, the total cost of the trip is just under \$60,000! 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 2015 Mission trip to Nicaragua!!](#) If you feel led, checks can be made payable to "SCO-FCO". As an added incentive, your donation will be tax deductible. ☺ If you would like to make your donation tax deductible, please let me know, and I will provide you with the necessary form. 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. Donations need to be in by March 20, 2015.

May God bless you and your family in this New Year!

Derek Hennig

Southern College of Optometry Class of 2017
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

Praise You in This Storm ~ Kenny Smallhorn

“I will praise You in this storm, and I will lift my hands,
For you are who You are, no matter where I am,
And every tear I cry, You hold in Your hand.
You never left my side, And though my heart is torn,
I will praise You in this storm.”

-Casting Crowns, Praise You in This Storm

Recently, there was a sermon on Jesus’ walk in the wilderness for forty days. And to be honest, I can remember rolling my eyes a little bit at the mention of “wilderness’s” we all face. No offense to the preacher, but I found the term to be lame, generic, and kind of stupid. To me, examples like that, including this song, are just fluffier ways of saying life sucks. It’s really that simple. There’s no “wilderness” to wander, no “storm” to face, no “mountain” to climb. I, personally, don’t find much comfort in using these terms. Life is just hard. And if we’re truly going to travel through a wilderness, such as Jesus did, we’re not going to have the comfort coming from God. That is thanks to the devil. Jesus had to resist the temptation to give up during his struggles on his own. The devil was riding his back, trying to make him forget about the comforting psalms that can help ease the pain. I know it to be this way because my father’s recent passing has been described as a “wilderness” for me to deal with. And I know the devil’s constantly been on my back because I’ve cried multiple times, as most people would in this situation. It’s the devil bringing those feelings of loss and sadness. Why would God want us to be sad? I’ve heard numerous times “He’s in a better place.” If he’s truly in a better place, why are we upset? The only reasonable explanation is that devil is at work. I guess what I’m trying to say is that nothing is a storm or a wilderness if we don’t make it to be. The devil doesn’t want us working through these problems. He doesn’t want us praising God in the midst of these situations. But in reality, these situations, such as the death of Ken and the death of Harold, are when we should becoming stronger and truly praising him in the storm. The devil is trying hard to hand us chaos. And in order to give it back to him, we need to do as the song says, and raise our hands to God. For He is who He is, no matter where we are.

In Loving Memory

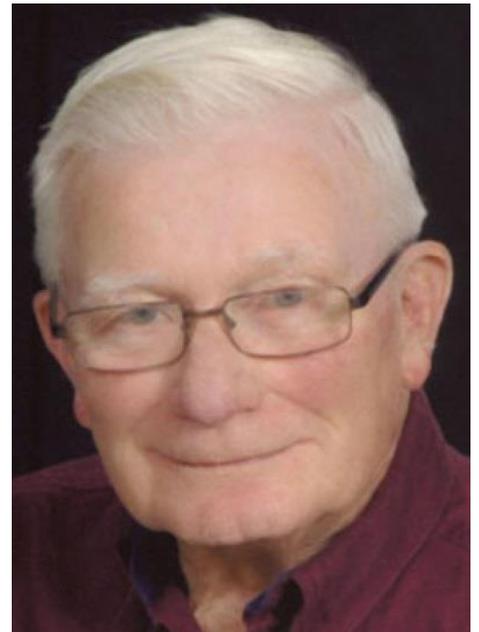


Kenneth Smallhorn

8/27/1952 ~ 2/9/2015

Harold Hackett

6/3/1933 ~ 2/17/2015



Intentional Faith

Family Night

Something for EVERYONE!!
Bring YOUR whole family!

Wednesday Evenings

6:00-6:30 pm Meal & Fellowship

6:30-7:30pm Small Groups

(All Ages)

SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sundays at 10:30am)

Sunday School classes available for all ages—Everyone is welcome!

Preschool Class
(Age 3-Kindergarten)
Meet in Noah's Ark Room
w/ Jane Cox

M.S./H.S. Class
(6th-12th grade)
Meet in Blue Room
w/ Pastor Chuck



Adult Class (Believers)
Meet in Gold Classroom
w/ Butch Hackett

Elementary Class
(1st-5th grade)
Meet in Garden Room
w/ Sandy Smallhorn

Please stay and share with us in Fellowship Time
each Sunday following the worship service
(even if you do not plan to stay for Sunday School).

This is a wonderful time to reconnect with your church family ☺



Let us continue to remember our shut-in and homebound members.
Please remember them in your prayers and feel free to visit or send a card ☺

Francis Adkins

Odd Fellow Rebekah Home
201 Lafayette E
Mattoon, IL 61938
Birthday: 5/25

Jim & Bertha Anderson

13250 E Cty Rd 210N
Charleston, IL 61920

Joan Hutton

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

Tom Watson

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



Eleanor Rice

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

2015 Worship Leaders

Please check the website for a current list of Worship Leaders for 2014. These include Greeters, Acolytes, Ushers, Family Cross and Children's Moment Leaders. We appreciate your involvement in our weekly worship service.

www.charlestonotterbein.org



Please Note

*If you need to reach
Pastor Chuck Trent*

Cell (618) 262-3409

chucktrent47@gmail.com

Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...

Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (*Aprils 2015*) will be printed and distributed around the first week in April. The deadline to submit articles or information in the February newsletter will be **Thursday, March 15.** Please contact Michelle Price (217) 549-7285 or email the church office if you have information to include.

FAITH
is like Wi-Fi,
it's invisible but
it has the power
to connect you to
what you need.



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



March 2015



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 30 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 3 30 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 4 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u> | 5 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 6 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 7  |
| 8 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am | 9 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm Finance Meeting 6:30p | 10 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 11 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u> | 12 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 13 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 14 |
| 15 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am | 16 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 17 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm PPRC Meeting 6:30 pm | 18 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u> | 19 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm Newsletter Articles due | 20 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 21 Fellowship Hall in use |
| 22 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am | 23 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 24 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 25 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u> | 26 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 27 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 28 |
| 29 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am | 30 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | 31 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm | | | | |

FINANCE REPORT

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

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

— John Wesley

MONTHLY EXPENSES PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ameren CIPS (Church) | \$ 495.00 |
| City of Charleston (Water Dept) | \$ 26.00 |
| Conf. Group Health Ins. (Pastor) | \$ 1,525.00 |
| Consolidated Comm. (Church) | \$ 93.00 |
| IGRC Missions | \$ 1,062.00 |
| IGRC Pension (Pastor) | \$ 836.00 |
| Childress Mowing | \$ 160.00 |
| Janitor/Secretary Wages | \$ 494.04 |
| Maintenance Supplies | \$ 50.00 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 40.00 |
| Chuck Trent | \$ 2,380.26 |
| Chuck Trent TV/Hse. Phone | \$ 120.00 |
| Payroll Taxes | \$ 41.00 |
| Postage | \$ 49.00 |
| Print Co (Newsletter) | \$ 24.00 |
| SS Material | \$ 72.00 |
| Upper Room/Devozine | \$ 27.00 |
| State Farm Ins. (Bldg & Work Comp) | \$ 285.15 |
| TOTAL | \$ 7,779.45 |
| Weekly | \$ 1,245.00 |

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

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



Celebrations

Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| Richard Dennis | 03/03 |
| Lisa Mc Daniel | |
| Braxton Denson | 03/04 |
| Nicole Hackett | 03/05 |
| Judd Hackett | 03/06 |
| Linda Hackett | 03/13 |
| Crystal Schultz | 03/15 |
| Hadlie Williams | 03/20 |
| Doug Hennig | 03/25 |



Happy Anniversary
Bill & Rose Snider
3/19



March Worship Leaders



03/01 **03/08** **03/15** **03/22** **03/29**

Greeters

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Doug & Mary Hennig | Marty & Loretta Buell | Marcia Lawhead Betty Potts | Randy & Becky Rice |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|

Acolyte

| | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Jade Smyser | Brandon Schulz | Kayla Donley | Tyvon Smallhorn | Ian McDaniel |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|

Family Cross

| | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Rick & Sharron Waltrip | Wayne, Jane, Dorothy Cox | Jim & Carolyn Craig | Bob & Betty Stoner | Sharon Johns |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|

Ushers

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Brad Bircher Jim Craig Randy Rice Bill Snider | Rick Waltrip Marty Buell Clinton Tribby Bob Stoner | Vickie Bircher Linda Hackett Lisa McDaniel | Jerry Payne Austin Hackett John McDaniel | Brandon S Ian McDaniel Alesia S Debra |
|--|---|--|--|--|

Children's Moment

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Carolyn Craig | Jane Cox |
|---------------|----------|



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



THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

MARCH 2015

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Sunday Morning Worship | 9:00 a.m. |
| Sunday School | 10:30 a.m. |

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

CONTACT US:

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charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com (email)
www.charlestonotterbein.org (webpage)

www.facebook.com/groups/CharlestonOtterbeinUMC

All are welcome!