



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

MARCH 2013

The Angels Kept Silent

by Danette Kettwich

Away up the hillside, My Savior was led.
My humble Lord Jesus, With thorns on his head.

The angels above, Looked down on His way;
They kept silent as they, Watched Him that day.

They watched as the beam, Was dropped in a hole.
Wings trembled in rage, And made thunder roll.

Not long ago they watched, Above where he lay.
They rejoiced as the Savior, Was placed in the hay.

This time they watched silent, They did not rejoice;
They did not echo in, Any harmonic voice.

Did they wait in their legions, A single word to be said?
One word to prompt a rescue, Archangel led.

Did they know this way was, God's eternal plan?
From the sword in His side, To the spikes in His hands.

The angels kept silent, As He cried 'It is done.'
Did they weep as if, The enemy had just won?

As the Messiah was, Placed into the grave,
Did they comprehend the plan, For human souls to save?

Three days passed as they, Watched the stony place.
The death shroud then fell, They looked upon His face.

Heaven could no longer, Hold back their voice;
Their silence was broken, In harmonic rejoice.

Hallelujah! He is risen! He has risen from the dead!
He is alive! He is alive! Just as He said!

Death has no victory, Death has no sting!
For Christ is alive, He's the everlasting King!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Main Page	1
Pastor's Chat	2
Lay Leader's Line	3
Women's Bible Study	4
Bible Study	4
Sunday School	4
Fellowship Time	4
Family Night	5
Ad Council Vote	6
Contact Pastor Nicholas	6
Newsletter Deadline	6
Nurture Report	6
Otterbein Hubbub	7
Finance Report	8
Celebrations	9
March Worship Leaders	9
March Calendar	10

Maundy Thursday



Please note that the Maundy
Thursday Service will be
Thursday, March 28th
at 7:00pm.

PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I pray this letter finds you well and blessed. When I was in seminary, I worked as a youth leader of this old Methodist church. There was this member who was a corporate pilot. He once agreed to fly me home to Chicago.

I was impressed and comforted by the care he took in planning the trip. One thing that sticks in my mind is how carefully he planned his “approach.” As he planned, he would have charts in front of him that he would consult. He would call for weather reports so he would know wind direction and speed, as well as, visibility. Finally he would always check the elevation (how high above sea level) of the airport. In his words, “It’s always good to know where the ground is when you are landing.”

Last month we began the season of Lent. Lent is the 40 day period (not including Sundays) we spend preparing for Easter. This month, as we continue through our journey of Lent and approach Easter, we need to plan our “approach”.

My friend will tell you that a good approach makes for a good landing. If we hope to celebrate Easter in the way God would hope, then we need to plan our approach.

Those diagrams and charts helped my friend approach the ground. Are you taking these 40 days to renew your commitment to reading the Bible?

My friend always called to check on the weather conditions. Part of our approach to Easter this year should include talking with spiritual mentors in our lives. Each of us should have people in our lives that are farther along on their journey with God than we are. Who are these people for you? Are you finding time to sit with them and talk to them?

My friend said it is always good to know where the ground is. As you approach Easter, are you also spending time grounding yourself in prayer? Prayer is more than a time for us to ask God for what we want. It is a time to connect with God, to be grounded.

May the journey be meaningful, rich, and grace-filled. And, may each of us arrive on Easter with a renewed heart and a deepened faith.

Shalom,

Nicholas



LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

One night a clergyman was walking to church when a thief pulled a gun on him and demanded his money or his life. When he reached into his pocket to hand over his wallet, the robber saw his clerical collar and said, "I see you are a priest. Never mind, you can go." The clergyman, surprised by the robber's unexpected act of piety, offered him a candy bar. The robber said, "No thank you. I gave up candy for Lent."

The man had given up candy as a supposed sacrifice for Lent, but his lifestyle of stealing showed his real character! According to Proverbs 20:11, conduct is the best indicator of character (***Even a child is known by his actions, by whether what he does is pure and right.***) In the 23rd chapter of Matthew, Jesus issues a series of "woes" upon the religious establishment of His generation. He refers to them as "hypocrites", a word that describes someone who hides behind a mask. Jesus exposed the hypocritical attitudes of the religious leaders. They knew the scriptures, but did not live by them. They didn't care about being holy- just looking holy in order to receive the people's admiration and praise.

Today, like the Pharisees, many people who know the Bible, do not let it change their lives. They say they follow Jesus, but don't live by His standards of love. People who live this way are hypocrites. Appearances and words are deceiving; behavior is the best judge of character. This applies to all of us. We must make sure that our actions match our beliefs.

As followers of Jesus, we demonstrate our love for Him by what we do, not just by what we say. May our devotion to God, because of His love for us, be revealed in our actions today.

In His Grip,
Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

**Even the hypocrite
admires righteousness.
That's why he imitates it!**

Intentional Faith Development

BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK "NOT A FAN"

6 Week Bible Study, Led by Pastor Nicholas on Thursday Evenings from 6:30-7:30pm, Feb. 7 thru Mar. 14

Twenty times in the New Testament, Jesus issued a compelling and challenging invitation to Follow Him. He's not interested in mere fans. He doesn't want enthusiastic admirers. He wants Completely Committed Followers. Based on the engaging approach of Kyle Idleman, this one-of-a-kind small group study examines what it means to deny one's self and truly follow Jesus.

This unconventional small group experience is a cinematic journey through a series of six mini-movies providing a unique perspective to help shape today's believer into a first century Christ-follower. Follow the journey of Eric Nelson, a man leading a compartmentalized triple life as a pleasure-seeking rebel, a cutthroat corporate executive, and a nominal Christian. When confronted with a near death experience, Eric embarks on a spiritual journey that transforms his commitment to Jesus Christ and tests the faith of his friends and family.



**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
(1st-5th grade)
Meet in Garden Room
w/ Jane Cox

M.S./H.S. Class
(6th-12th 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 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 ☺

These families have signed up to provide the refreshments for the month of **March:**



March 3
March 10
March 17
March 24

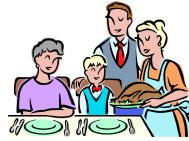
Larry & Melody McGrath
Larry & Melody McGrath
Doug & Mary Hennig
Crystal Schulz



Join us at
FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesdays
6:00-7:30pm

...a time of Faith, Fellowship,
and Fun with your church Family!



Family Night Meals

Offered to participants at no cost (donations are accepted, as you are able).
Feel free to join them anytime for a meal and fellowship (*you do not have to stay for the sessions beginning at 6:30 to participate in the meal!*). And you do not have to come every week—come when you can ☺ You are always welcome!!!

Please note that they will not be meeting March 13th or March 27th.



J4J (Jumping for Jesus)

Age 3-5th grade
w/ Jane Cox

Learning the Books of the Bible with
DVD series "What's in the Bible?" from
Veggie Tales creator Phil Vischer.

Women's Group

w/ Samantha Baker

*Join the women for a devotional and various
hands-on mission/craft projects each week.
They are currently working on a quilt.*

LinC (Life in Christ)

6th-12th grades
w/ Adam Baker

Our sessions have been more youth-driven,
leading into some very deep discussions, from
angels & demons, temptation, to free will.
Please continue to pray for our youth as their
spiritual lives are being molded.

Men's Group

w/ Jim Craig

Discuss a weekly question (taken from "Living
With Questions"), and discuss and implement
ways the men can serve both inside the church
and out into the community.

Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...

Ad Council Vote



The Ad Council & congregation met immediately following the worship service on Sunday, February 17 to vote on the proposal to allow the Great Banquet to begin holding their weekend retreats in our facility. The proposal was defeated 35 to 18.

Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (April 2013) will be printed and distributed around the end of March.

The deadline to submit articles or information in the April newsletter will be Thursday, March 21.

Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office if you have information to include.



Please Note!

If you need to reach Pastor Nicholas:

Cell Phone: (740) 513-6199

Home Phone: (217) 345-2046



NURTURE REPORT

The Nurture Committee had a meeting in February. We are excited to be able to work with and assist the congregation in any way possible. We hope to provide coordination and co-operation with all activities. We are asking that any individual, group or committee that is planning an activity or fundraiser talk with the Nurture Committee before they start the project. We feel that this will facilitate a smooth flow of activities. We are also discussing some social events such as concerts, plays, or movies and would appreciate any input from the congregation. We are here to serve you and help in any way possible.

--Submitted by Joan Johns, Chairperson & the Nurture Committee

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

THE OTTERBEIN HUBBUB!

Submitted by Carolyn Craig

"The OTTERBEIN HUBBUB"

- **"Hub"** means **"focal point"**... may our ministry focus always be God-centered!
- **"Hubbub"**, a word for "noise"... may we come together, serving in the way God created us to serve, and make **"a joyful noise"** in the process!
- **HUB Leader**... one whose goal is **"H-elping to U-tilize the B-ody"**

- **New Church Library** – Books are still being donated for the new church library. (Thank you!) A round table and stools were recently purchased at "Standing Stone" and are in the center of the room. Hopefully there will be more shelving in place in the near future so we can continue with the library set-up. We're getting eager to see this project brought to completion so it can be used!
- **Wednesday Family Night, Women's Group** – Dorothy Cox has been inspired to lead the Wednesday night gals through the process of making a quilt. The quilt we're working on is a "star" pattern. Each of the gals are trying their hand at cutting out and sewing together 16 stars apiece, then Dorothy is taking it to the next steps. If anyone would like to join us, you will find us in the gold classroom on Wednesday evenings after the meal.
- **Necklaces/Bracelets/Earrings** – Just when the Wednesday evening ladies' group thinks we are finished making crocheted necklaces/bracelets/earrings, then more are sold. The proceeds are going to a good cause (helping to send kids to church camp), so we've continued to leave the display set up. There are some new colors now too, so if you haven't checked out the display lately, you may want to do so! We are getting close to closing up shop on this project for a while.

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>
1/27	\$ 799.27	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,385.73)
2/3	\$ 2,481.58	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 296.58
2/10	\$ 1,322.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 863.00)
2/17	\$ 1,637.30	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 547.70)
TOTAL	\$ 6,240.15	\$ 8,740.00	(\$ 2,499.85)



BUILDING FUND

Current Balance

1/27	\$ 2,254.44
2/3	\$ 3,189.44
2/10	\$ 1,902.89
2/17	\$ 2,172.89

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

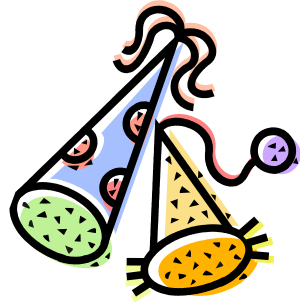
MONTHLY EXPENSES PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

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

Give and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

--Luke 6:38 (NLT)

Celebrations



Birthdays

3/2	Rachel Schwartz
3/3	Richard Dennis
3/3	Lisa McDaniel
3/5	Nicole Hackett
3/5	Mercedes Roberts
3/6	Judd Hackett
3/13	Linda Hackett
3/15	Crystal Schulz
3/25	Doug Hennig
3/31	Samantha Tanner

Anniversaries

3/14 Wayne & Jane Cox
 3/19 Bill & Rose Snider



March Worship Leaders

	<u>3/3</u>	<u>3/10</u>	<u>3/17</u>	<u>3/24</u>	<u>3/31</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Raymond & Sharon Johns	Rick & Sharron Waltrip	Clinton & Bonnie Tribby	Harold & Phyllis Hackett	Jim & Carolyn Craig
<u>Acolyte</u>	Keridwen McDaniel	Kayla Donley	Mackensie Williams	Omarion Johnson	Jade Smyser
<u>Ushers</u>	Mary Hennig Doug Hennig Sandy Smallhorn Randy Rice	Betty Potts Vickie Bircher Marty Buell Austin Hackett	Crystal Schulz Ron Hall Larry McGrath Cathi Brockman	Bob Stoner Betty Stoner Tom Blair Shelli Blair	John McDaniel Lisa McDaniel Butch Hackett Linda Hackett
<u>Family Cross</u>	Dan & Vickie Bircher	Marty & Loretta Buell	John & Lisa McDaniel	Jim & Bertha Anderson	Jim & Carolyn Craig
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Samantha Baker	Carolyn Craig	Sandy Smallhorn	Jane Cox	Pastor Nicholas



MARCH 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	2 <i>Rachel Schwartz</i>
3 <i>Richard Dennis</i> <i>Lisa McDaniel</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am <u>Building in Use</u> 12:30-3:00pm 3 rd Sun. of Lent	4 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm	5 <i>Nicole Hackett</i> <i>Mercedes Roberts</i> <u>Women's</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	6 <i>Judd Hackett</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	7 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	8 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	9 <u>Arts Council</u> "Beading" 9:00am-3:00pm
10 <u>Daylight Savings</u> <u>Time Begins</u> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am 4 th Sun. of Lent	11 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	12 <u>Women's</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Nurture Mtg</u> 6:00pm	13 <i>Linda Hackett</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	14 <i>Wayne & Jane</i> <i>Cox</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	15 <i>Crystal Schulz</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	16
17 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am 5 th Sun. of Lent	18 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	19 <i>Bill & Rose Snider</i> <u>Women's</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	20 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	21 Newsletter Articles Due <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	22 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	23 <u>Building in</u> <u>Use—</u> <u>Wedding</u>
24 Palm Sunday <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am 6 th Sun. of Lent	25 <i>Doug Hennig</i> <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	26 <u>Women's</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 9:00am <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	27 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>AA Mtg</u> 8:00pm	28 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Maundy</u> <u>Thurs. Service</u> 7:00pm	29 Good Friday <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	30
31 <i>Samantha Tanner</i> Easter Sunday <u>Worship</u> 9:00am						

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

MARCH 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

