

MAY 2012

In honor of our mothers, wives, grandmothers, daughters, aunts, friends, spiritual mothers, and special women in our lives, we wish you a happy and blessed Mother's Day!

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. -- Proverbs 31:10-12, 25-31 (N9V)

Happy Mother's Day!

~1~

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PASTOR'S CHAT Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,



I pray this letter finds you well and blessed. I want to share with all of you a saying a seminary professor of mine offered me a few years ago. He told me that as you listen to God's Word, you should be asking the question, "How will that help?" That's a great question for the season we are in. Consider this with me.

In the Gospel of John, Nathanael was sitting under a fig tree when Philip ran to him. Philip calls to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."

Nathanael gave a response that many of us might be guilty of. "Could anything good come out of Nazareth?"

Philip's response was simply, "Come and see." He didn't try to reason with Nathanael. He didn't try to debate Nathanael. He simply replied, "Come and see."

Come and see. How will that help? Part of our connection to God through Jesus Christ is to come and see. To personally step up and look. Look at how God has blessed us. Look at how God is present in the world. Look at how Jesus changes lives. The tomb is empty. How will that help? Come and see.

Luke tells another story that has also caught my eye. This time Jesus came and walked alongside two men. Jesus taught them and taught them. He also shared a meal with them. In time the men said, about their experience of the risen Jesus, "Were not our hearts burning within us?"

Hearts on fire. How will that help? Some of us may have allowed our 'on fire" hearts to become little more than smoldering embers. Maybe the trials and challenges of a hard life have doused the flames. Maybe disappointment with the church or with one another has caused us to not feel the fire anymore. Maybe, the fire of our hearts has just gone out due to lack of attention. I have learned that if you have a nice fire you simply must continue to feed the fire, or it will go out. Maybe this season is about rekindling the fire in your heart. How will that help? Were not our hearts burning?

The Fourth Gospel, John, tells of the risen Christ meeting the disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. To one disciple Jesus asked this simple question, "Do you love me." That is the most important question of our faith.

Do you love me? How will that help? It is the answer that will shape the rest of our lives. It is the answer that will determine whether the story of the resurrection will be a piece of history or the path to life. It is the answer to this question that will open the gates of heaven and transform our lives. Do you love me? How will that help? Come and see.

Shalom,

Nicholas



LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

Recently, three people had the share of winning the largest lottery jackpot in history. 662 million dollars split 3 ways. Two of the winners remained anonymous, while the third person came forward yesterday. The man was from the small town of Red Bud, Illinois and because of the lottery laws in Illinois; he had to come public with his winning ticket.

I remember the night of the drawing. Linda and I were sitting in the hot-tub imagining what it would be like to come into that much money all at once. We quickly realized that a person's character is put to a severe test when he/she suddenly acquires a considerable amount of money. (I suppose the opposite is true as well; e.g. if a person suddenly loses all their money.) We jokingly talked about what we would do first, how would we invest? who would we help?; where would we go?; etc. Of course these choices would be made after we gave our tithe! Suddenly we noticed that our conversation took a tone of fear. We became worried that our children and grand-children would become victims of some distorted mind that would try to get some money through ransom. Maybe a trusted financial planner would embezzle it. Possibly the stock market would plunge and all of it would be lost. I started to think that maybe it wouldn't be worth winning that much after all. I mean, why would a person want to fear for their life and the lives of their loved ones after becoming one of Forbes top wealthiest people overnight! Does that make sense? Why would a person even buy a ticket if they were afraid of the results? That conversation made me think of a couple places in the Bible that spoke of wealth. The first was the rich farmer who had a bumper-crop and decided to build bigger barns only to die before he could spend it. The other passage was from Matthew 6:19, where Jesus said, "Do not store up treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal." (NIV)

Seriously, doesn't it make more sense to get excited about wealth far greater than that lottery jackpot? Can you imagine an inexhaustible supply of wealth that is for each of God's chosen without having to buy a ticket or leave our selection to chance? Well, that's what we have waiting for us, when we get to Heaven.

In Hebrews 13:5 we see written these words; "*Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have....." My footnote provides these words on this passage: [We should strive to live with less rather than desiring more; give away out of our abundance rather than accumulating more; relish what you have rather than resent what we're missing.]*

Let's focus on getting excited about what we will be inheriting which is immeasurable and beyond our imagination!



<u>Thought for</u> <u>the Month:</u>

It's good to have money and the things money can buy. It's good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things that money can't buy.

- George Horace Lorimer



In His Grip,

Butch

Intentional Faith Development

(foli	Sunday School 10:30am lowing worship & fellowship time)
<u>Age 3-Kindergarten</u>	Meet in Noah's Ark Room (2 nd classroom on the right)
<u>1st-5th Grade</u>	Meet in the Garden Room (3 rd classroom on the left)
6 th -12 th Grade	Meet in Jr High/High School Room (1 st classroom on the left)

2 Adult Class Options:

<u>The Believers</u>	Meet in Fellowship Hall (End of hallway)
<u>???s</u>	Meet in Café Room (2 nd classroom on the left)



BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Evenings from 6:30-7:30pm

Pastor Nicholas is leading a 6-week study on the book <u>Change the World: Recovering the Message and Mission of Jesus</u> by Mike Slaughter. The study will end May 24. Child care is available. See below for a brief description of the book:

"Something is not working. Despite the church's place of prominence in American culture and the ubiquity of the church in every American town, misconceptions about the faith of Jesus Christ run rampant today. Christians are known more for exclusivity than for love, more for potlucks than for solving world hunger. It's time for churches to get over the cruise-ship mentality of being a program provider, and reconnect with the true message and mission of Jesus: to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed."



<u>Women's</u> <u>Bíble Study</u>

Tuesday Mornings at 9:00am



Family Night

Wednesday Evenings from 6:00-7:30pm (dinner from 6:00-6:30pm)

*J4J (age 3 thru grade 5) *LinC (grade 6 thru 12) *Men's and Women's Groups *Child Care for age 2 and younger

Family Night Season Finale Join us <u>Wednesday, May 23</u> from <u>6:00–7:30pm</u> for a wiener roast and fellowship with your friends & family. All are welcome!



CHOIR PRACTICE THURSDAY EVENINGS AT 5:45PM (THRU MAY 24)

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE CHOIR. LET'S MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD!

Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars today for VBS 2012!

We are planning a three-day VBS this year, with a kickoff celebration on August 5th, 2012. Everyone is invited to attend!

The VBS program will be August 6th-8th. We have had 100% church-wide participation in the past and are praying for the same this year 🙂

Please lift up VBS in your daily prayers! This is an excellent outreach opportunity to share the love of Jesus to our children and community!

YOUTH AUCTION

The youth group will be hosting an auction Saturday, May 12, to help fund their summer mission trip to Chicago. Cardinal Tickets, Chicago Cub Maron Byrd autograph photo, Chicago White Sox's Adam Dunn autograph photo...Chicago Bears autograph photos of Jay Cutler, Brian Urlacher, Devin Hester, and Julius Peppers...plus much more. More details will come soon!



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).

May 2012	John & Brenda Adams
June 2012	Bob & Betty Stoner
July 2012	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn



Mother's Day Breakfast

The men's Family Night Bible study group has been blessed by God. They have challenged themselves to "pay-it-forward" by doing something for others at Otterbein and the community.

To start, they are planning a breakfast at the church.

May 13, 2012



8:00 A.M.

For Mothers and their support network

Please sign up if you plan to attend and bring a guest, daughter, daughter-in-law, or friend.

Men (whether or not you have been a part of the Bible study group up to this point in time), we can use some additional help setting up, cooking, cleanup, etc. Please sign up if you would like to help. For questions: Jim Craig 348-0713 (home phone);

508-7334 (cell phone)

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

	Amt Received	Amt Needed	<u>Over/(Short)</u>
3/25	\$ 1,586.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 599.00)
4/1	\$ 2,409.58	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 224.58
4/8	\$ 2,431.50	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 246.50
4/15	\$ 1,165.75	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,019.25)
<u>4/22</u>	<u>\$ 1,367.74</u>	\$ 2,185.00	<u>(\$ 817.26)</u>
TOTAL	\$ 8,960.57	\$ 10,925.00	(\$ 1,964.43)



BUILDING FUND

Current Balance (each Sunday)

3/25	\$ 4,986.94
4/1	\$ 5,581.94
4/8	\$ 4,334.59
4/15	\$ 4,394.59
4/22	\$ 4,564.59

Monthly Mortgage Payment

\$ 1,356.55

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. -2 Corinthians 9:7

MONTHLY EXPENSES PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

Ameren CIPS (Church)	\$ 450.00
City of Charleston (Water Dept)	\$
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 (*June 2012*) will be printed and distributed around the end of May. The deadline to submit articles or information in the June newsletter will be <u>Thursday, May 17</u>. Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office if you have information to include.

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Meet Jim and Carolyn Craig...

Jim was born in Mattoon, IL at home. He was the 5th child out of eight children. He joked he was one of six middle child. When he was young he had all of the normal childhood diseases. Since he had older siblings they were always bringing home the disease of the season. So Jim just got them all and got them out of the way.

Jim told about a Halloween when he was about four years old. His mom had a bushel basket of apples to hand out to the trick-or-treaters. Jim decided he wanted all the apples for himself so he took a bite out of every one of the apples. His mom was NOT happy with him. He, to this day, tries to blame his older sister by saying she put him up to it.

He lived in Mattoon until he finished the first grade. His family moved to Charleston and lived west of town out where Drake Homes is located now. He loved going out into the woods and playing. His favorite game was playing the role of Roy Rogers. Growing up Jim always wanted to do an office job. He wasn't sure what that really was, but he thought it looked cool. At home he would line up his paper sacks and pencils on the table and play office.

Jim attended school at the Lincoln Grade School for five years. Hmmm. Ken and I now own the Lincoln Grade School. When Jim was about seventeen years old, his dad brought home a 1955 Chevy. He handed the keys to Jim and said it's yours.

Church has always been an important part of Jim's life. It was never a question of IF he was going to church or not. He was. That was how his parents raised him. They attended the Unity Chapel out in the country. At the age of sixteen, Jim became the Sunday School Superintendent.

Unity Chapel was formed in 1870. Otterbein United Methodist was formed in 1912. OUMC was a mission church of the Unity Chapel.

Carolyn Replogle Craig was born in the country just down the road from the Unity Chapel. She is the youngest of three children. Her two older brothers were ten (10) and twelve (12) when she was born. Due to the age difference, she chuckled and said it was almost like she was an only child. She didn't play much with her brothers. Besides she grew up being a girly girl. She loved to play dress up and mommy. She did have a boy cousin about her age so she would play dress up with him.

She didn't like riding horses or milking the cows. She learned how to dress a chicken, but she didn't like to. Her mother made her gather the eggs, and she didn't like that much either. They did have a piano, and she learned how to play.

She fondly recalls her childhood home. It was a big old farmhouse that her grandpa built from the ground up. He had no plans per se, just the know-how. I saw a picture of it, and it was huge as well as beautiful. Her childhood home was located directly across the street from where she currently lives. As her retirement age came around, she moved back home.

Continued from page 7....

She recalled a time when her father was burning the brush and weeds out around the fence line. It was a very dry day, and it didn't take much for the fire to get out of hand. Her mother got on the phone to call for the fire department when the fire started coming for the house. Back then we had party lines, and word of mouth spread quickly that they needed help. All the neighbors came and grabbed a bucket and started throwing water on it. When it was all done, Mother turned around and said, "Oh Lord! Where is Carolyn?" She found her safe and sound standing at the end of the lane with her baby carriage filled with all of her dolls. Carolyn took the time to save her dollies! Growing up all she wanted to be was a mother. Her childhood heroes were Ricky Nelson and Elvis.

Another time she was in a homecoming play. After she finished her piece she said, "I can't think of anything else to say." Her dad yelled out from the audience, "That is a first!"

She attended a one room country school called Doty. When she graduated from the sixth grade they closed the school down. Yet, that didn't stop her relationship with the school. Her aunt bought the school and set it up to hold the Replogle gatherings.

Carolyn attended a family oriented church called, Unity Chapel. Yes the same Unity Chapel Jim went to. She grew up going to church with Jim. He is five years older than her. When Carolyn was fifteen, Jim was the youth leader. After youth group he would drive everyone home in his car. Carolyn was always the last to be dropped off even though she lived the closest. Finally Jim got the courage up enough to ask her out. Carolyn was sure her father wouldn't let her date him, but she asked her dad anyway. After two days of sweating it out and waiting for an answer, her dad said she could go. They went to a movie and then to the A&W Root Beer stand.

They were married five years later. Carolyn worked as a legal secretary. Jim had to go to Vietnam for two years. In the Army he worked as a Chaplain's Aid. He sat up Catholic masses. When he returned, they were married. Jim interviewed for an accountant position at Marathon Oil in Ohio. He got the job, and they packed up and moved.

Jim had been away with the Army; therefore it wasn't as hard for him to pack up and move. Yet for Carolyn it wasn't so easy. School, church and everything she was involved in was like a family setting. She was close to her family, and it was hard for her to move. As God would have it, there was another man interviewing at the same time as Jim. He got the job as well as Jim. His wife was from Paris, IL. Both of the couples became great friends and remain so to this day.

Jim and Carolyn found a home church and became very involved. Jim said his first duty in their new church was none other than Sunday School Superintendent. Although there were 350 members at their new church, it had that family oriented feeling that was so very important to both of them. It didn't take long before they became very successful in church. God led them both on a long and blessed journey. They founded and ran a fantastic family camp where families could come and relive the spirit of Christ. Based on their vast knowledge of starting and running a beneficial family camp, Carolyn wrote a book on how to start and maintain planning a church family camp. It is an interesting read.

Continued from page 8....

A huge accomplishment in their lives was when they had three beautiful children. God was certainly blessing the Craigs. Carolyn had a very hard time conceiving and carrying her children. Fullfilling her childhood dreams of being a mother was especially a blessing for her. She was a stay at home mom and took care of her babies. Her son Kyle was hoping she would go to work. He wanted to be a latch key kid. He wanted to come home eat his own snacks, watch TV and be in control for a while before mom or dad came home, but Carolyn would go back to work.

Jim retired from his job after 32 years. They put their house on the market and made plans to build their new home on the land across the road from where Carolyn grew up. Their house just wasn't selling. They joked they thought the church was responsible for that. Two years passed and finally someone purchased their home. Back to Illinois they headed.

They designed and built their current home. It is a beautiful home. It is built to their specifications. It is quiet and in the country, a perfect setting. On the wall in the basement there are two walls decorated with memorabilia. On one wall are the children's memories. On the other wall is one dedicated to Jim and Carolyn. There are pictures of their parents and even pictures of a beautiful young Carolyn with an equally handsome photo of Jim in the Army uniform. God intended for this union to take place from the very beginning. On this same wall were two small maroon colored hats. One said," Carolyn" and the other said, "Jimmy". They didn't even know they had these until one day they were thinning out their house, and they both came across them. God knew they were made to be together long before they did.

Meeting with them in their home confirmed what we already felt. They are very dedicated to Christ and doing his works. Ken and I felt blessed when we left there.

*Written by Sandy Smallhorn

-Special thanks to Sandy for this fascinating article about a few of Otterbein's special members! Jim & Carolyn currently reside in Charleston. If you would like to send a special note, their address is:

> JIM & CAROLYN CRAIG 5732 N CR 1300E CHARLESTON, IL 61920



If you need to reach Pastor Nicholas:

<u>Cell Phone:</u> (740) 513-6199 Home Phone: (217) 345-2046 Participant and a second

Judge each day not by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant.

--Robert Louis Stevenson



<u>Birthdays</u>

5/4 5/5 5/6 5/16 5/22 5/25 5/25 5/25	Melody McGrath Tyvon Johnson Vickie Bircher Samantha Baker Sherry Strode Raymond Seeley Francis Adkins Alice Seeley Jerry Payne
5/22	Raymond Seelev
	, , ,
5/25	Alice Seeley
5/25	Jerry Payne
5/25	Lidiya Blair
5/30	Bill Porter
5/30	Joey Smyser
5/31	Jim Anderson





<u>Anniversaries</u>

5/1	Randy &	Becky Rice	;
	. /	. /	

- 5/5 Dave & Kím Hackett
- 5/26 Jim & Bertha Anderson
- 5/30 Joey & Kendra Smyser
- 5/31 Adam & Samantha Baker





May Worship Leaders

	<u>5/6</u>	<u>5/13</u>	<u>5/20</u>	<u>5/27</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Raymond & Sharon	Dorothy Cox &	Rick & Sharron	Brad Bircher &
	Johns	Family	Waltrip	Family
<u>Acolyte</u>	Alesia Smyser	Mackenzie Wilson	Jade Smyser	Tyvon Johnson
<u>Ushers</u>	Jessica Watton	Jerry Payne	Wade Hennig	Sandy Smallhorn
	Mary Hennig	John McDaniel	Derek Hennig	Lisa McDaniel
	Marty Buell	Dan Bircher	Doug Hennig	Shelli Blair
	Rick Waltrip	Harold Hackett	Randy Rice	Becky Rice
Family Cross	Jerry & Sue	John & Lisa	Jeremy & Tiffany	Tom & Shelli
	Payne	McDaniel	Fitzpatrick	Blair
<u>Children's</u> <u>Moment</u>	Samantha Baker	Sandy Smallhorn	Carolyn Craig	Jane Cox

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Randy & Becky Rice <u>Women's</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	2 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	3 <u>Tech</u> 5:00pm <u>Choir</u> 5:45pm <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	4 Melody McGrath Tyvon Johnson	5 Vickie Bircher Dave & Kim Hackett
6 Samantha Baker Worship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am	7 <u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm	8 <u>Women's</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	9 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	10 <u>Tech</u> 5:00pm <u>Choir</u> 5:45pm <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	11	12 <u>Youth Auction</u> Time: TBA
13 <i>Mother's Day</i> <u>Mother's Day</u> <u>Breakfast</u> 8:00am <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	14	15 <u>Women's</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	16 Sherry Strode <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	17 Newsletter Articles Due <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	18	19 <u>Arts Council-</u> <u>Building in</u> <u>Use</u> 9am-3:30pm
20 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am	21	22 Raymond Seeley <u>Women's</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	23 <u>Family Night</u> <u>Season Finale</u> 6:00-7:30pm	24 <u>Tech</u> 5:00pm <u>Choir</u> 5:45pm <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	25 Francis Adkins Alice Seeley Jerry Payne Lidiya Blair	26 Jim & Bertha Anderson
27 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	28 Memorial Day	29 <u>Women's</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	30 Bill Porter Joey Smyser Joey & Kendra Smyser	31 Jim Anderson Adam & Samantha Baker <u>Tech</u> 5:00pm		

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

MAY 2012

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

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

<u>CONTACT US:</u> (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

