



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

MAY 2011

No Love Like a Mother's Love

There is no love, like a mother's love,
no stronger bond on earth...
like the precious bond that comes from God,
to a mother, when she gives birth.

A mother's love is forever strong,
never changing for all time...
and when her children need her most,
a mother's love will shine.

God bless these special mothers,
God bless them every one...
for all the tears and heartache,
and for the special work they've done.

When her days on earth are over,
a mother's love lives on...
through many generations,
with God's blessings on each one.

Be thankful for our mothers,
for they love with a higher love...
from the power God has given,
and the strength from up above.

Written by Jill Lemming (www.theholidayspot.com)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Main Page	1
Pastor's Chat	2
Lay Leader's Line	3
Vacation Bible School	4
Family Night	4
LinC	5
Church Work Day	6
Honor Your Mother	6
Take Note!	6
Bible Studies	6
Meet Bill Harrison	7
Meet Bill Harrison Cont.	8
Meet Bill Harrison Cont.	9
Sayings of Bible Mothers	9
Celebrations	10
May Worship Leaders	10
May Calendar	11



Happy Mother's Day!

PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Krista Price



Chasing the Clouds Away

As I sit writing this article for May's newsletter, I look out the window and it is cloudy and windy again. Then I think of our lives in the spring. Some of us are beginning to blossom, and we are growing in the Lord. But many of us see only clouds. We don't see the places God has brought us from or is taking us to in the months to come. Then we see wind as a bad thing as well. But if we were to look at it in the spiritual sense, we would see the Holy Spirit blowing new life in us and helping us through these cloudy days.

We are getting close to Easter Sunday as I write this and I know once we finish the journey we will settle into preparing for summer. But where are we really? Are we just gearing up for busyness? Or are we gearing up for opportunities to refuel, replenish and renew our spirits for God? May can be a wonderful month of family time and joyful experiences or May can be one of more things than our calendar can hold. It wraps up a school year, and summer activities begin a month early. We try and get all those parties in before people are busy and gone for the summer. Then it happens, May is gone.

I pray you take May slowly and enjoy whatever it is God is trying to do in and through you. Don't rush the month to get to summer. Don't rush God and all that He wants to offer you during this month. May Easter linger a little longer than normal in your lives. May you see the fruit of all that God is trying to do in and through the church.

We have had visitors popping in at Otterbein. Let them see the good that God is doing in and among us. Please look around and invite someone new during this month. Our topic and series for the month of May is family and relationships. Slow down and cook like the commercial says. I say slow down and love. Don't forget what is important this May, people, family and love! Let's continue the Easter journey forever and witness to others the goodness that God can give us when we look for His wonders. Chasing the clouds away together! See you in church!

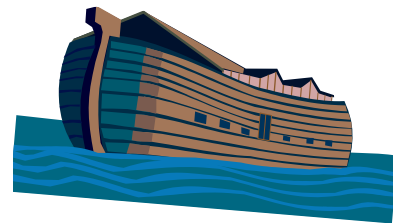
*Serving together,
Pastor Krista*



LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

- Q: Did all the animals on the ark come in pairs?
A: No the worms came in apples.
- Q. Why did Noah have to punish and discipline the chickens on the Ark?
A. Because they were using "fowl" language.



Over the years, I've heard jokes like these about Noah's ark. I've also had conversations with others about why did God allow mosquitoes, snakes, and cats to survive the flood? Or why did He create them at all! I'm kidding about the cats, of course. It's just my personal opinion. Nevertheless, we all question God's purpose for creating some of the animals or insects that we have on earth. Let me share with you a true story I read in "The Daily Bread" devotional that I use.

Corrie ten Boom was an inspiration to thousands of people after World War II. She was a lady with strong Christian faith and lived that faith in spite of her consequences. Hearts were stirred and lives changed as she told with moving simplicity about God's sufficiency to meet her needs even as a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp. Not only was the camp filthy, but the camp was overrun with fleas. Corrie's sister Betsie, who was imprisoned with her, insisted that 1 Thessalonians 5:18 was God's will for them; "...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." But giving thanks in a flea infested place seemed unrealistic to Corrie-until she realized why the guards didn't come into their barracks to make them stop praying and singing hymns. They wanted to avoid the fleas! So, the prisoners were free to worship and study the Bible. The fleas, yes even the fleas were agents of grace, and something to be thankful for.

What are some of the "fleas" in our lives? They aren't the big difficulties, but the petty annoyances. They are the little trials from which we can't escape. Is it possible that they are one of the ways the Lord teaches us spiritual lessons and helps us to increase our endurance?

When we are tempted to grumble, let's remember the fleas and give thanks.

In His Grip,

Butch

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

If you pause
to think,
you'll find
cause
to thank.



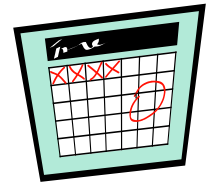


COMING SOON!!!

Shake It Up Café Vacation Bible School will be held on one day, August 6, 2011, from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Please consider

donating to this ministry through your time, talents and financial gifts. All children ages 2 through 5th grade are invited to explore the Bible as an exciting cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's Word! By celebrating biblical festivals, they will: be ready for God, give happily to God, believe fully in Jesus, remember Jesus often, and celebrate God forever! Don't miss out on a wonderful opportunity to share the love of God with our children and our community! Please contact Jane Cox to find out how you can help before, during and after VBS ☺

VACATION
BIBLE
SCHOOL



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

FAMILY NIGHT SEASON FINALE

May 25th, 6:00 PM!!

It's hard to believe, but the 2010-11 Wednesday Evening Family Night season is winding down... 3 more regular times to meet. A special "thanks" goes out to all of the leaders who were there each week to faithfully lead their sessions and to the kitchen crew who prepared those delicious meals we all enjoyed!

Because it's been such a good season, **EVERYONE IS INVITED** to the **SEASON FINALE WIENER ROAST** at **Otterbein UMC**. (*Have you noticed the new fire pit at the edge of the parking lot?*) There will be opportunity for great food, fellowship, fun & games in the church yard that evening. Bring your lawn chairs and any yard games you would like to set up and share. Please join us... Bring your whole family... Invite your friends! We would like to see a HUGE turnout!!

FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 pm
(Meal from 6:00-6:30 pm)
Everyone is welcome!

~ 4 ~

Join us!!



LinC (Life in Christ)

END-OF-SEASON LINC FINANCIAL REPORT

Sept 1, 2010 - Beginning Balance-\$209.93
Cash In - \$976.32; Cash Out - \$570.63
Apr 5, 2011 - Ending Balance-**\$615.62**



"DEAD SERIOUS ABOUT LIFE"

The location of this musical/drama on April 9/10, 2011 was changed to the Nazarene Church, Casey, IL. Twelve people attended that event. Through this musical/drama, we learned about many of the tough issues that today's teens deal with and what results come as a result of our life decisions. We also heard personal testimonies from some of the youth who performed in the musical/drama. And, as an extra bonus, the youth (at LinC on Weds evening April 13th), were witness to three of our own Otterbein folks who gave their personal testimonies as well... thanks, Bob Stoner, Dan Bircher, and Tom Blair!!

LinC (May Schedule - 6:00 -7:30 PM)

- 05/04/11 -w/Evan Price
- 05/11/11 - w/Wade Hennig
- 05/18/11 - w/Evan Price (w/Jim Craig, back-up)
- 05/25/11 - Wiener Roast & Games, Church lot in back, bring your own lawn chairs & yard games to share!

WINTER JAM



Twelve people in the carpool group from Otterbein UMC attended the March 26th Winter Jam in Champaign, IL. Others traveled there on their own, so approximately 20 people total from Otterbein got to enjoy the great music from current contemporary artists.

To Everything There is a Season...

After much prayer and consideration, Jim and Carolyn Craig will be stepping down from their current leadership position as Youth Ministry Coordinators following the 2010-2011 season. Rest assured, someone has stepped up and volunteered to fill this important and vital role in our church ☺ Pastor Krista will be leading the youth group in the fall as we begin the 2011-2012 season. She will be re-structuring the Wednesday evening meetings in a new way that will hopefully benefit our existing youth and the new youth that will be entering LinC in the fall (primarily junior high ages). Stay tuned as more info is available in the coming months!

Special thanks to Jim & Carolyn for all of their hard work and dedication for the youth of Otterbein!!

OTHER NEWS



Otterbein's Work/Clean-Up Day will be on Saturday, May 7, beginning at 8:00 a.m. We need all of your help and assistance to clean up the church and repair a few things that need a little TLC. Please clear your schedules and

volunteer your time and talents to beautify and maintain our building and grounds. If you cannot attend on May 7, please contact Pastor Krista or Rick Waltrip to find another time where you can put your talents to work! ☺ Let's be good stewards by maintaining and caring for the house of God that we have been blessed with!



Take Note!

As summer approaches and many of our normal activities will be taking a brief hiatus, the June & July newsletters will be combined into one summer newsletter that will be distributed at the end of May. The deadline to submit articles or information is **May 23**. Please email the church office at charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com if you have anything to share.



~ 6 ~

Honor Your Mother!

Please join us in worship on Mother's Day, May 8 at 9:00 am. Flowers will be given to honor the women in our lives. Invite your mother, children, and other family or friends to celebrate this very special day!



BIBLE STUDIES

Please feel free to join any of the Bible studies at any time ☺

Women's Bible Study—
Tuesday mornings 9:00-10:00am

Adult Bible Study—
during Family Night on Wednesdays
from 6:30-7:30pm

Meet Bill Harrison...

As I looked around Bill Harrison's living room, I saw several pieces of dark blue glass. They are beautiful. Some are on a shelf above the living room window. Some of the pieces catch just enough light to show off their beauty. I collect carnival glass so of course it caught my attention. As I sit there looking at them, I comment to Judy, Bill's wife, how beautiful it is. She said, "Oh yeah. It is Bill's collection." It is called Cobalt Blue Glass.

Bill was very interesting to interview. He knows a lot of history around this area and I for one found it fascinating. For instance, he has a sister who is 12 years older than he. She was born at home. Bill and his older brother were born in the M.A. Montgomery hospital on Division St. Today it is where the Hour House is located.

Retail business ran way back in Bill's history. His grandfather would buy buildings and fix them up. Then he would turn around and sell them and make a profit. In searching his family history he found his grandfather's name attached to several buildings and homes all over town. We are talking about the 1913 on up era.

Bill's father worked at the local Ford garage in town. Around 1947 they moved to their home on Taylor. For pocket money his dad would take wheels for bicycles and put them together. He assembled the spokes, the sprockets and such. Around 1949 his dad felt he could make a living off of bicycles and so he added on to one of the homes they lived in thus starting the Harrison Bicycle Shop.

Growing up his family life was very much that, a family. They played board games, went to church and had family meals together. They always had a bicycle. His mother came up several times in the conversation so it was obvious how much he loved and respected his mother.

He went to Boy Scouts but found it very hard to earn merit badges. He had the desire but his troop was very inactive. He attended all of the outings he could.

He loved to hunt and fish. He told of walking through an open field when a flock of ducks flew overhead. He raised his shotgun and fired. Much to his amazement he actually hit one.

One of the houses associated to his grandfather was in Westfield. He said he remembers little to nothing about the house with one exception. He was really young then. Yet he remembers being in the yard with his grandma. He chuckled as he finished his story; she was killing a snake with a garden hoe.

When he was 13 or so he would go out with his friends, Gary and/or Ron Dehollander. Their mom Marge would haul them around sometimes. One of their favorite fishing ponds was out by the Charleston Country Club. It had a fence around the entire place because the owners raised and cared for wild animals. The deer kept leaping over the fence to get out. Then they had no way to get back in. The owner designed and built a gate that would swing in or out. It didn't take long for the deer to learn how to open and close the gate.

This particular day, Gary and Bill went fishing on their pond. They walked all the way around the pond to the other side where the trees and brush weren't as bad. As Bill sat down and started to bait his hook, Gary came walking up. His gear was all ready so he dropped his line in the water just a few feet to Bill's left. Immediately he pulled in a 7lb. Channel catfish! Ticked off, Bill worked at catching a 3lb. Channel catfish and a 3 ½ lb. Channel catfish just to make up for the one that Gary stole from him. Now that is a fisherman's most aggravating moment.

Keeping up with his real "fish stories", Bill was telling about the time he went to Farrier's pond to fish. Farrier's pond is located around what is now Hidden Lake Drive. There he caught a 5 lb. 10 oz. bass.

Bill wasn't big in sports. He did play on the little league baseball team. When he was 11 or 12 he played on the Charleston National Bank team. That was when the team won the West Division Championship.

He took piano lessons from Wanda Ruyle, which was okay until the day of the piano recitals. That was when he learned he was the only boy taking piano lessons. That was the end of a promising career.

Continued from page 7...

He attended EIU majoring in math. Just before he was to graduate he was drafted into the Army. He went to Ft. Dix in New Jersey. There he was trained in radio and telegraph. From there he went to Ft. Gordon in Georgia where he was trained in teletype. It was the MIL keyboard with only 28 letters. Before he could move up to the encryption detail he had to pass a security background check. There was some kind of delay so he and another guy had to wait for their checks to clear. The rest of the unit was deployed to Vietnam. Bill ended up being shipped to Germany. Once there he ran into two different people from Charleston, IL. Small world. He served 21 months. He was discharged and came home to finish his degree work at EIU.

With his degree and teaching certificate he taught Jr. High math. He did this for a year and a half. There was a shortage in the science dept. He was told he had to teach science as well as math. He declined because he felt he wasn't equipped to teach science. I asked him what he thought about teaching. He said, "It was an experience."

Bill has worked the usual jobs. He worked in convenience stores, K Mart, Superior in Mattoon, Upchurch and more factory work, and at the Charleston Speedway. Here he served in every capacity you can think of. He lived on the premises for a while taking care of the grounds. He was pit steward, rescue crew, announcer, and even score keeper. For the past 23 years, until his retirement, he was a postal carrier for the Charleston Post Office.

Bill has an amazing career in the Mason's. He has been a Mason since 1979. He has held an office of some degree for over 23 years. He is very knowledgeable about the Masons and has achieved great accomplishments. His most distinguished award he received in 2006. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Award. For this award you must be nominated by your Mason Brothers. There were only 16 awards presented in the state and Bill was one of them.

Bill is currently the Historian of Otterbein UMC. He is full of history and fun information about our church. In 1946 there was a burning of the mortgage held at the 6th & Harrison church. Pictured in the photo was G.P. Stoner, June Craig's mom and unmarried Eleanor Rosebaugh Rice. Eleanor has not changed one bit. She was easy to pick out of the crowd. He had a roster dated 1927. Again the names were familiar. There were Sims' (Bill's mom's side), Stoner's, and many Johns' families listed.

Bill had fond memories of the church. He remembers how it was the cool thing to do when the teen boys would sit at the back of the church, slink down in the pew and nap during the sermon. Gee! Not much has changed for Bill on this except for where he sits now! His father was the treasurer of the church. He remembers getting to the church early as a boy and ringing the church bell. He recalled looking at the coins in the collection plate and often seeing some cool ones. He was never forced to go to church. He just went and enjoyed it. It was, and still is, a part of who Bill is.

In 1993 Bill went down to the pawn shop to buy a word processor. He wanted to be able to write stuff down without having to constantly erase it. After discussing it with the owner, they agreed he would be much happier with a computer.

When his mother passed away he found his baby book. There was a box of old letters from distant relatives asking for more family information. There were letters in reference to his past that Bill found captivating. He has researched and found a great deal about his family tree.

As a volunteer he works with the Find A Grave program. People will email him and ask if he could look for a specific name in a specific cemetery. He has walked, read and entered a memorial of every headstone in 4 different cemeteries. He has gone as far as Highland County, Va. in search for family information. There he found a 2nd cousin who actually had the family Bible. He was able to look through it and learn more on his family.

There is one catch to Bill being so knowledgeable on who is and who is not a nut from his family tree. One night he was invited to the parsonage with Pastor Sharon's family. Also there was, Bob & Betty Stoner, Jerry, Sue and April Payne and someone else he couldn't remember. Pastor asked for everyone to write something down that no one else in the room knew about you. He wrote, "I am related to all but 2 of you in this room."

Continued from page 8...

We talked briefly about marriage. He has been married 4 times. Judy he married twice, (great things are worth repeating.) When he and Judy divorced he told her as they left the court house, he was not done loving her. 21 years later, they were united in marriage again! AHHHHH! However! Bill has outlived 2 of his former wives and Judy laughed and said, "Things aren't looking so good right now."

The most interesting aspect of my talking with Bill was watching how God interlocks our lives, long before we know each other. Bill met Ken at a social function. They were acquaintances. Then Ken and I start dating and working at the stock car track. There was Bill. Again we didn't know him well. The minister who married Ken and I was Rev. Dean Ruyle. His wife's name was Wanda Ruyle, Bill's childhood piano teacher. The best man at our wedding was none other than Bill's childhood fishing buddy, Gary. Now we are friends and church family! Praise be to God.



***Written by Sandy Smallhorn*

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

Bill currently resides in Charleston with his wife Judy.

If you would like to send a special note or visit, his address is:

**BILL HARRISON
916 17TH STREET
CHARLESTON, IL 61920**

Top 10 Sayings of Bible Mothers (www.jokes.christiansunite.com)

10. Samson! Get your hand out of that lion. You don't know where it's been! (Judges 14:5-8)
9. David! I told you not to play in the house with that sling! Go practice your harp.
We pay good money for those lessons!
8. Abraham! Stop wandering around the countryside and get home for supper!
7. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego! I told you never to play with fire!
6. Cain! Get off your brother! You're going to kill him some day!
5. Noah! No, you can't keep them! I told you, don't bring home any more strays!
4. Gideon! Have you been hiding in that wine press again? Look at your clothes! (Judges 6:11)
3. James and John! No more burping contests at the dinner table, please.
People are going to call you the sons of thunder! (Mark 3:17)
2. Judas! Have you been in my purse again?!

And the number one biblical saying of mothers is:

1. Jesus! Stop working on that old wood and come in and eat!
You'd spend your life on that wood, if your father asked ya to!*

** (Please note that the word "spend" isn't used in the sense of time, but in the sense of "giving his all" "being poured out")*

Celebrations

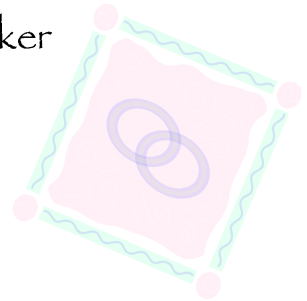


Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

5/1 Randy & Becky Rice
 5/5 Dave & Kim Hackett
 5/19 Steve & Krista Price
 5/26 Jim & Bertha Anderson
 5/30 Joey & Kendra Smyser
 5/31 Adam & Samantha Baker



May Worship Leaders

	<u>5/1</u>	<u>5/8</u>	<u>5/15</u>	<u>5/22</u>	<u>5/29</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Raymond & Sharon Johns	Dorothy Cox and family	Brad Bircher and family	Rick & Sharron Waltrip	Harold & Phyllis Hackett
<u>Acolyte</u>	Deece Schwartz	Tyvon Johnson	Alesia Smyser	Jade Smyser	Brandon Schulz
<u>Ushers</u>	Jessica Watton Linda Hackett Rose Snider Rachael Bircher	Jerry Payne John McDaniel Rick Waltrip Harold Hackett	Krista Snider Mary Hennig Marty Buell Dan Bircher	Phyllis Hackett Rex Johns Sandy Smallhorn Wade Hennig	Brad Bircher Wayne Cox John McDaniel Bob Stoner
<u>Family Cross</u>	Jerry & Sue Payne	John & Lisa McDaniel	Jeremy & Tiffany Fitzpatrick	Tom & Shelli Blair	Eleanor Rice



MAY 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 <i>Randy & Becky Rice</i></p> <p><u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am</p>	<p>2</p> <p><u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm</p> <p><i>Fellowship Hall in Use</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p><u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am</p>	<p>4 <i>Melody McGrath Tyvon Johnson</i></p> <p><u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm</p>	<p>5 <i>Vickie Bircher Dave & Kim Hackett</i></p> <p><u>Prayer/Fasting</u> Tech 5:00pm <u>Choir 5:30pm</u></p>	<p>6 <i>Samantha Baker</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p><u>Church Work Day</u> 8:00am</p>
<p>8</p> <p><u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am</p> <p>Mother's Day</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p><u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am</p>	<p>11</p> <p><u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p><u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:30pm</u></p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p><u>Arts Council</u> 9:00am-3:00pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p><u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am</p>	<p>16 <i>Sherry Strobe</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p><u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am</p>	<p>18</p> <p><u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm</p>	<p>19 <i>Steve & Krista Price</i></p> <p><u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:30pm</u></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p><u>Great Banquet Gathering</u> 4:00-10:00pm</p>
<p>22 <i>Raymond Seeley</i></p> <p><u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am</p> <p>Graduation Sunday</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p><u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am</p>	<p>25 <i>Francis Adkins Alice Seeley Jerry Payne Lidiya Blair</i></p> <p><u>Family Night</u> <u>Season Finale</u> 6:00-7:30pm</p>	<p>26 <i>Jim & Bertha Anderson</i></p> <p><u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:30pm</u></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p><u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am</p>	<p>30 <i>Bill Porter Joey Smyser Joey & Kendra Smyser</i></p> <p>Memorial Day</p>	<p>31 <i>Jim Anderson Adam & Samantha Baker</i></p> <p>Annual Conference Begins</p>				

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

MAY 2011

Sunday Morning Worship
Sunday School

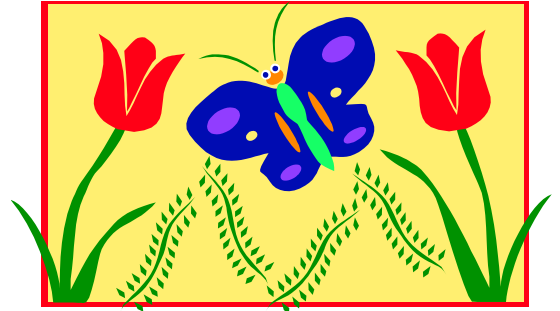
9:00 am
10:30 am

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

Phone: (217) 345-5843

Email: charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com

Website: www.charlestonotterbein.org



All are welcome!

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

