



# Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

## THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

NOVEMBER 2012



### Chili & Bazaar Day

Saturday, November 10  
10:00am-2:00pm



Food donations are needed to help prepare the chili and other items that will be available. Please see Wayne or Jane Cox for info on how to donate food or your time in helping set-up, serve and clean-up. There will also be a craft and baked goods bazaar happening at the same time in the double classroom. If you have items to put into the bazaar, please see Dorothy Cox. We would like a variety of hand-crafted and homemade goods! Please price your items before bringing them to the church.



### Community Thanksgiving Dinner

November 22  
11:00am-2:00pm

Otterbein UMC will once again serve as the hosting site of the Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 22. A complete Thanksgiving meal is available free of charge for those who would be spending the holiday alone. Deliveries are available. Call Harold Hackett (345-5044) or Butch Hackett (345-3072) to arrange delivery or for volunteers.

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### Charge Conference

Sunday, November 11  
2:00pm  
at Mattoon UMC

*Everyone is encouraged to attend.*



# PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

*“With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?  
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with then thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”*

Dear Friends,

There's this question that has been heavy on my heart in the recent weeks. What does God want from us? Does God want us to be more religious? Does God want the best worship service that money can buy? Does God want everything we will ever own – thousands of rams and rivers full of olive oil? Does God want the person we will cherish most in the world, our legacy – our first born son? What does God want from us?

I'd like to tell you what God really wants from us is for us to give more generously to this church. I'd like to tell you what God really wants from us is for us to make a commitment of our time and abilities and to be involved in the life and mission of this church. I'd like to tell you that.

Yet, as God gives testimony, what I think God really wants is for us to remember our story. We are God's people. Our God took emptiness and chaos, and God created a world. God made a universe full of life beyond anything we can imagine. And that life-giving, Spirit-breathing God gave life and breath and Spirit to each of us.

Our God took Hebrew slaves and led them out of bondage and set them free and brought them into the Promised Land.

Remember, God testifies, I am the God who delivers you from slavery.

Remember, I am the God who brings you freedom in the midst of curse.

Remember, I am the God who makes a way when there seems to be no way.

What does God want from us? God doesn't want phony religion or worship that doesn't make any difference in our lives once we leave God's temple. God doesn't want Sunday holiness, and Monday to Saturday holy heck. God doesn't want all our possessions – we can't buy God's favor. And God doesn't want our first born. It is God who gave us His first born.

So what does God want from us? God wants us to remember who and whose we are. God wants our most honest and genuine selves, loving God with all who we are – with all our heart and soul and mind and strength; all our moments of all our days. And God wants that love to overflow in working for justice and living with compassion toward neighbors and strangers and those most in need.

*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.*

What God really wants is for our heart to burn for Him and those things that His heart burns for. But in the midst of this busy, consumerism, struggling economy, sometimes we can lose sight of this. Take some time this week to check your heart. Are you giving God what He really wants?

Shalom,

*Nicholas*



# LAY LEADER'S LINE

**Butch Hackett**

This is the month that we Americans have the right to vote for who we want to be our president for the next four years. We have been inundated by the media with information about the candidates these past few months. In order to make our selection of who we want to vote for, we should use resources available to us to determine which candidate's vision for the future closely mirrors ours. We are encouraged to check facts and do some research to make a wise decision.

I think we have similar responsibilities as Christians to our church. Those of us who serve on committees have an opportunity to see how our church is doing. Our attendance is down and our offerings are suffering. We don't have enough money in reserve to pay our monthly mortgage. A year ago at this time we had a 2 month cushion in the account to pay our mortgage. We are months behind our apportionments to the Conference. The Finance Committee has been doing a great job of keeping "band-aids" on our accounts to keep our doors open. I don't think that everyone is aware of our dire situation. As members, I believe it is our job to keep abreast of how the church is doing. We are on the verge of losing our full time pastor. The future currently looks bleak. So, what is the answer?

God has done wonderful things at our church and continues to bless our small body of believers. As we celebrate 100 years in this community, I still believe God has great things in store for us. As I was sitting in the Finance Meeting Monday night, I thought about the passage in Malachi where the Lord tells the people to 'Test Him'. Our low offerings and low attendance are just the fruit of the problem. I think the root of the problem is a spiritual one. There has to be something spiritually we need to research to help us through this difficult time. I went home and researched some devotionals written on Malachi 3:6-12 and found one written by Pastor Mike Pedlowe who is Senior Pastor at Church of the Valley in San Ramon, CA. I would like to share some of his thoughts with you:

**SO WHAT?** *(What will I do with what I have read in Malachi 3?)*

*Luke 6:38 says, "Give and it will be given to you. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." For a long time I wanted to believe that verse but it just seemed too good to be true. I wanted to believe it and I kept asking myself how exactly does God give back to me. When I give to others how God does give back to me? But first, I want to ask you – what has giving done for you?*

## **#1. GIVING MAKES ME MORE LIKE GOD**

*God's a giver. Everything we have is a gift from God. When I give, I'm like God. John 3:16 – "God so loved the world that He gave..." You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving. It makes you more like God.*

# **LAY LEADER'S LINE** (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Butch Hackett

## **#2. GIVING DRAWS ME CLOSER TO GOD**

*Matthew 6:21 says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart is also." Wherever I put my money that's where my heart is. If I put my money into entertainment, that's where my heart is. If I put my money into my house, that's where my heart is. If I put my money into my car, that's where my heart is. In our family, we happen to put our money into eating out as you've noticed. Where you put your money is where your heart is. If you put your money with the Lord, it always draws you closer to God.*

## **#3. GIVING IS THE ANTIDOTE TO MATERIALISM**

*I shared this principle several years ago at COV, and one of the guys at our Saturday morning men's bible study recently shared that this principle was key in his spiritual growth. So, I decided it was time to share it again. Folks, you know that we live in a very materialistic culture. Advertisers are not even subtle any more. They just come out and say it straight out, "You can buy happiness." That's America! Life, liberty, and the purchase of happiness.*

*1 Timothy 6:17-18 says, "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and willing to share in this way they may take hold of the life that is truly Life!"*

*First it says, "Command those who are rich..." That's all of us. If you live in America, you're rich. You could be the poorest American, but you're richer than the rest of the world. He says it's OK to enjoy life but true living comes from giving. We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give.*

*I think as parents we need to model a balance of giving and getting. If people are always getting and getting what are our kids learning? Only to get. We need to model giving to our children. It's the antidote I know to materialism. It's the only antidote to getting, getting, getting is to give, give, give. It makes me more like God. It draws me closer to God. It's the antidote to materialism.*

## **#4. GIVING STRENGTHENS MY FAITH**

*God uses finances to test your faith. Some of you are living proof of that. Have you ever had to decide between paying a bill and tithing? You only have so much money so where is it going to go? This is a test. God's saying, "Do you really believe that I can take care of your bills? Or do you think you have to take care of them on your own?" He's saying, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, test me in this, says the Lord. See if I won't throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing you won't have room enough for it."*

# LAY LEADER'S LINE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

**Butch Hackett**

*God says, I dare you. I dare you to see if you become a giving, generous person, you tithe all the time, see what happens to your life. There are more promises in the Bible regarding giving than any other thing. God talks more about giving and promises more about giving than any other thing. Jesus talked more about giving than He did about heaven or hell. It's the essence of the Christian life -- "God so loved the world that he gave..." Giving gives God the chance to do a miracle. So my giving strengthens and stretches and tests my faith.*

*Let me ask you, would you like to be more like God? Would you like to be closer to God? You say, "I feel far away from Him. I'd like to be closer." Would you like to have the antidote to materialism? Would you like to have your faith strengthened? Do you want those things? They will happen when you start obeying God in the area of giving. Let me tell you how to begin.*

*Second, 1 Corinthians 16:2 from the LB says this, "On the first day of every week [Sunday] set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn."*

*Why is it important to give weekly? He wants it to be a weekly reminder of who's first place in your life. When you give the first part of your money on the first day of every new week, it is a reminder that says, "God, You're really number one." I may say God's number one in my life, I may say I'm seeking first His kingdom, but if I'm not giving Him the first part of my money and not giving it the first day of every week, how can I say He's first? It's a reminder.*

*Some of you have asked me in the past - How much should you give? What's this verse say? This verse says - "The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you to earn." What you give should be based on what you make. If the Lord didn't help you to earn anything this last week, then you shouldn't give anything this last week. But in proportion to what you're earning, God says as an offering, as a reminder -- gratitude for the past, priorities right in the present, and expectation for the future -- I'm to give. "*

I apologize for the lengthy article, but I think this devotional can be kept in our Bibles as a reminder of what God has done for us individually and a church. I believe giving to God includes our time and talents as well as our money. Won't you join me in praying for Otterbein and asking God to show us how we can be better stewards with what He has given us?

In His Grip,

Butch



## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

Blessed are those  
who can give without remembering,  
and receive without forgetting.

# Intentional Faith Development



## Women's Bible Study

Tuesday Mornings at 9:00am  
w/ Sandy Smallhorn

All women are invited to share in a time of Bible study and fellowship with other women in our church family.

## BIBLE STUDY

The Beth Moore James Bible Study will wrap up on November 1.

Pastor Nick is planning on leading an Advent Bible Study. Stay tuned for further details.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL (Sundays at 10:30am)**

### Preschool Class (Age 3-Kindergarten)

Meet in Noah's Ark Classroom  
w/ Sandy Smallhorn

### Elementary Class (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade)

Meet in Garden Classroom  
w/ Jane Cox

### M.S./H.S. Class (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Meet in Sanctuary  
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

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

**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

### November:

November 4	Betty Potts
November 11	Rex & Joan Johns
November 18	Rex & Joan Johns
November 25	Rex & Joan Johns



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 on November 21.**



#### J4J (Jumping for Jesus)

Age 3-5<sup>th</sup> 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 (some ideas include crocheted necklaces, table runners, or pillowcases to sell in the craft bazaar or give to shut-ins, cancer patients, nursing homes, etc). After the bazaar, we plan to work on clean-up of the church and setting up a children's library/reading program.*

#### LinC (Life in Christ)

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades  
w/ Adam Baker

The youth will be using a practical discipleship curriculum in a four-volume series,  
Soar, Thrive, Follow, Think,  
biblically discussing issues that matter to students today.

#### 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...

## CHOIR PRACTICE



Thursday Evenings  
at 6:00pm

Everyone is welcome  
to join the choir. Let's  
make a joyful noise to the  
Lord!



## Please Note!

If you need to reach Pastor Nicholas:

Cell Phone: (740) 513-6199

Home Phone: (217) 345-2046

## Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter  
(December 2012) will be printed  
and distributed around the end  
of November. The deadline to  
submit articles or information in  
the December newsletter will be  
**Thursday, November 15.**

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



## The Fourth Annual Habitat for Humanity Trivia Night

November 3, 2012

6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church  
921 Madison Ave., Charleston

The entrance fee is only \$10.00 per person. Each member of the winning team will be awarded \$20.00. Proceeds from this event will be used to support Coles County Habitat for Humanity in its goal of building three homes per year for deserving Coles County families in need.

Teams of 6-10 are encouraged, but not required. Inform your friends and neighbors of the event and encourage them to attend.

For more information or to reserve a table for your Trivia Challenge team, please call Jeff Lynch (549-3360) or email: [jplynch@eiu.edu](mailto:jplynch@eiu.edu)

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



Otterbein Men at Work—Building the ramp at the Smallhorn’s house



Praise the Lord for all of the expertise, labor, talents and gifts to make this project a success!



*1 Thessalonians 5:11*  
....encourage one another  
and build each other up...



*She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands.*  
--Proverbs 31:13



Wed. Night Women’s Group at work making pillowcases & table runners to be sold in the church bazaar & donated to Conkerr Cancer

## Thank You! Thank You!

Your support and participation in the CROP Walk on October 6 was greatly appreciated! We had **18 walkers** representing Otterbein UMC (out of a total of 95 walkers) and raised **\$1,118.00** (out of a total \$9,468)!!



# 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"** (of believers... at Otterbein)

- **Family Night Women's Group** – The Women's Group is continuing to crochet necklaces, and to sew pillowcases and table runners (see *display in the entryway of the church*). Necklaces and table runners may be purchased anytime (\$5/each). Pillowcases (\$8/set; \$5/single) can also be purchased through the holidays. The remainder of the pillowcases, and any sewn thereafter, will be donated to the Conkerr Cancer organization. (Purchases may be made at the Nov 10<sup>th</sup> church bazaar, or see Samantha Baker or Carolyn Craig).
  - **How can you help? 1)** Come join them on Weds evenings; **2)** donate fabric to make pillowcases (*it takes a yard to make one pillowcase*); and/or **3)** donate \$\$ toward the purchase of craft supplies (See Samantha Baker or Carolyn Craig).
  - **What's Next?** Watch for more news to come about a future project for the women's group! It involves clearing out some spaces; setting up a church library; and start-up of a children's reading program (w/prizes).
- **Family Night Men's Group** – The Men's Group is about to complete a ramp project for Ken Smallhorn. They wish to thank everyone who donated their time, talents and money toward this project. The funds have come in, and all is well. God is good! The Men's Group is currently considering other worthy projects to tackle.
  - **How can you help? 1)** Come join them on Weds evenings; **2)** donate your time, \$\$'s, and expertise as new projects are determined (See Jim Craig)
- **Family Night Meals & Fellowship Time** – When Otterbein folks meet, we like to eat! Be reminded... there's a meal every Weds at 6 pm, and sessions for all ages from 6:30-7:30 pm. Even if you can't stay for the sessions, please come for the meal and fellowship!



# 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>
9/30	\$ 1,309.90	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 875.10)
10/7	\$ 2,349.90	\$ 2,185.00	\$ 164.90
10/14	\$ 1,716.44	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 468.56)
<u>10/21</u>	<u>\$ 2,405.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,185.00</u>	<u>\$ 220.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,781.24</b>	<b>\$ 8,740.00</b>	<b>(\$ 958.76)</b>



*For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.*

--2 Corinthians 9:10 (NLT)

<u>MONTHLY EXPENSES</u>	
<u>PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE</u>	
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
<u>Worship Service</u>	<u>\$ 30.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 8,729.00</b>
<b>Weekly</b>	<b>\$ 2,182.25</b>



## BUILDING FUND

### Current Balance

9/30	\$ 3,152.19
10/7	\$ 3,597.19
10/14	\$ 944.09
10/21	\$ 1,114.09

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

# Celebrations



## Birthdays

11/4 Andrea Carr  
 11/6 Sharon Johns  
 11/14 Jared Tanner  
 11/14 Jessica Watton  
 11/17 Bob Stoner  
 11/19 Jim Craig  
 11/19 Austin Hackett  
 11/20 Jacob Smallhorn  
 11/24 Betty Stoner  
 11/24 Wade Hennig

## Anniversaries

11/1 Harold & Phyllis Hackett  
 11/11 Ken & Sandy Smallhorn  
 11/15 Randy & Krista Snider



## November Worship Leaders

	<u>11/4</u>	<u>11/11</u>	<u>11/18</u>	<u>11/25</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Rex & Joan Johns	Betty Potts & Cathi Brockman	Bill & Judy Harrison	Butch & Linda Hackett
<u>Acolyte</u>	Kenny Smallhorn	Keridwen McDaniel	Debra Bircher	Ian McDaniel
<u>Ushers</u>	Derek Hennig Doug Hennig Larry McGrath Rick Waltrip	Tabatha Lewis Phyllis Hackett John McDaniel Rex Johns	Mary Hennig Dan Bircher Samantha Baker Rick Waltrip	Lisa McDaniel Melody McGrath Wayne Cox Jim Hackett
<u>Family Cross</u>	Jerry & Sue Payne	Randy & Becky Rice	Harold & Phyllis Hackett	Bill & Judy Harrison
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Jane Cox	Carolyn Craig	Sandy Smallhorn	Jane Cox



# NOVEMBER 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Harold &amp; Phyllis Hackett</i>  <u>Choir 6:00pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> <b>6:30-8:00pm</b>	2	3 <u>Arts Council</u> <u>(Building in Use)</u> <b>9:00am-3:00pm</b>
4 <i>Andrea Carr</i>  <u>Daylight Savings Time Ends</u> <u>Worship</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Sunday School</u> <b>10:30am</b>	5  <u>Finance Mtg</u> <b>6:30pm</b>	6 <i>Sharon Johns</i>  <u>Women's Bible Study</u> <b>9:00am</b>	7  <u>Family Night</u> <b>6:00-7:30pm</b> <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> <b>8:00pm</b>	8  <u>Choir 6:00pm</u>	9	10  <u>Chili &amp; Bazaar Day</u> <b>10:00am-2:00pm</b>
11 <i>Ken &amp; Sandy Smallhorn</i>  <u>Worship</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Sunday School</u> <b>10:30am</b> <u>Charge Conference</u> <b>2:00pm</b>	12	13  <u>Women's Bible Study</u> <b>9:00am</b>	14 <i>Jared Tanner Jessica Watton</i>  <u>Family Night</u> <b>6:00-7:30pm</b> <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> <b>8:00pm</b>	15 <i>Randy &amp; Krista Snider</i>  <u>Newsletter Articles Due</u>  <u>5 Mile 10am</u> <u>Choir 6:00pm</u>	16	17 <i>Bob Stoner</i>
18  <u>Worship</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Sunday School</u> <b>10:30am</b>	19 <i>Jim Craig Austin Hackett</i>	20 <i>Jacob Smallhorn</i>  <u>Women's Bible Study</u> <b>9:00am</b>	21  <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> <b>8:00pm</b>	22  <u>Community Thanksgiving Dinner</u> <b>11:00am-2:00pm</b>	23	24 <i>Betty Stoner Wade Hennig</i> <u>Building in Use</u> <b>11:00am-5:00pm</b>
25  <u>Worship</u> <b>9:00am</b> <u>Sunday School</u> <b>10:30am</b>	26	27  <u>Women's Bible Study</u> <b>9:00am</b>	28  <u>Family Night</u> <b>6:00-7:30pm</b> <u>Building in Use-AA Mtg</u> <b>8:00pm</b>	29	30	

# THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

NOVEMBER 2012

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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](http://www.facebook.com/charlestonotterbein)

**All are welcome!**

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

