



Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

OCTOBER 2011

“JADE IS AWARE”

As you may know, October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and one of Otterbein's own kids is organizing a special fundraiser.

Jade Smyser (daughter of Joey & Kendra Smyser and granddaughter of Wayne & Jane Cox) is planning a fundraiser as she prepares for her birthday in October. Jade has decided that she wants a Breast Cancer Awareness themed birthday party in honor of her great-grandmother Dorothy Cox. She is selling all sorts of Breast Cancer Awareness favors from now until the day of her birthday party and plans to donate all of the proceeds to Breast Cancer Awareness.

Jade said to her mom, "Mom I don't care if nobody comes to my birthday party as long as they buy something so I can give lots of money to the hospital that saved my grandma's life!" Then she said, "And if I get any money for my birthday, I'm going to give that too!"

All proceeds will go to the Cancer Center at **Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center**. Please see Jade Smyser (at church) or contact her mother Kendra Smyser at 217-549-4221 or email jkaizsmyser@yahoo.com if you would like more information.

We are all a part of the body of Christ, no matter what our age! Otterbein is blessed to have children with such big hearts ☺



And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need.

These are the sacrifices that please God!

Hebrews 13:16

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PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason



Dear Friends,

Have you ever struggled with God's plan for your life? Or been confused with the prompting of the Holy Spirit? I have come to the conclusion that nothing is more unnerving or frustrating than passionately pursuing God.

Matt Batterson in his book Wild Goose Chase: Reclaim the Adventure of Pursuing God proclaims that "most of us will have no idea where we are going most of the time...And the sooner we come to terms with that spiritual reality, the more we will enjoy the journey."

But accepting that spiritual reality means giving up the very thing in which we find our security and identity outside of Christ. There's this gospel story about a rich young ruler that has always spoken to me.

On paper the rich young ruler had it all: youth, wealth, and power. But something was still missing. The rich young ruler was bored with his faith. And I think that's shown by the question he asked Jesus: "What do I still lack?"

Jesus told him to sell everything and follow him. He was lacking spiritual adventure. His life was too easy, too predictable, and too comfortable. And I think many Christians can relate.

We know our sins are forgiven and forgotten. We know we will spend eternity with God. So we simply go about our world trying our best to live our lives within the guardrails of God's good, pleasing, and perfect will. But still we have a gnawing feeling in the pit of our souls that something is missing.

Batterson offers up this simple formula to help us transform our spiritual boredom into spiritual adventure:

change of place + change of pace = change of perspective

Why are retreats and mission trips such powerful catalysts in our lives? Batterson declares new places open us up to new experiences. They get us away from the comfort of our routine and help us see God with new eyes.

Since I have arrived at Otterbein, many of you have spoken to me about your experiences during a spiritual retreat or mission trip. I encourage all of you to find these opportunities. You never know where it will lead, when you take on the pursuit for God.

Shalom,

Nicholas



LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

I use Yahoo as my homepage for my email. On the homepage, there is a segment that flashes little blurbs about ongoing events in the world, sports, entertainment, etc. Today, as I logged in to retrieve my email, I was drawn to a headline concerning the famous actor Brad Pitt. The article read as follows: I quote:

The first role that Brad Pitt won an award for, he hated.

Maybe hate is a strong word, but Pitt describes his experience as the brooding, self-loathing Louis de Pointe du Lac in the 1994 film "[Interview with the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles](#)," as "miserable." In a nicely self-deprecating [cover story for the September 23 Entertainment Weekly issue](#), the actor recalls his "six months in the (expletive) dark" wearing contact lenses, makeup, and playing second fiddle to star Tom Cruise both onscreen and off. (Cruise played the vampire Lestat.) "I'm telling you, one day it broke me," Pitt tells EW, and confesses he called friend and producer David Geffen to see how much it would cost to get out. The sobering answer: \$40 million. "I was like, 'I've got to man up and ride through this....'"

Don't you feel sorry for him? I mean to have to play second-fiddle to Tom Cruise, would be horrible, wouldn't it?Not! Every symphony has to have a second-fiddle.

In 1 Samuel 14, there is a story about another man who "played second-fiddle" but acted quite differently than Brad Pitt. Verses 1-14 outline the story of Jonathan as the young man who was bearing Jonathan's armor. One day Jonathan, (possibly because he was tired of the standoff between the Israelites and the Philistines), told this young man that they were going to the Philistine outpost without telling anyone. Jonathan's rationale is stated in verse 6, ".....Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving whether by many or by few." I love the reaction of the armor-bearing young man in verse 7; "Do all you have in mind", his armor-bearer said, "Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul." Then in verses 13 and 14 we see the result of Jonathan and his young helper's actions: 13) "Jonathan climbed up, using his hands and feet, with his armor-bearer right behind him. The Philistines fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer followed and killed behind him. 14) In that first attack Jonathan and his armor-bearer killed some twenty men in an area of about half an acre." My footnote on this story states that Jonathan and his armor-bearer weren't much of a force to attack the huge Philistine army. But while all the other Israelite soldiers were afraid, Jonathan and his young side-kick trusted God, knowing that the size of the enemy does not restrict God's ability to help them. God honored the faith and brave action of these two men with a tremendous victory. And even though the young helper's name is not ever mentioned, I would guess that he's well known in Heaven.

Have you ever felt surrounded by the "enemy" or faced over-whelming odds? Just remember that God is never intimidated by the size of the enemy or the complexity of the problem. With Him, there are always enough resources to resist the pressures and win the battle. Not only in our personal walk with Christ, but also as a church, we are faced with opposition from various fronts.

The church needs strong leaders to face our spiritual foes, but they must not be left to face them alone. They need the help and support of everyone in the congregation – loyal "armor-bearers" like you and me who are willing to join them in the battle against the "enemy of our souls" without concern for worldly recognition.

In His Grip,

Butch



Thought for the Month:

The best thing to do
behind a person's
back is pat it!



**Wednesday Evenings
6:00-7:30 p.m.
(Meal from 6:00-6:30)**

The Fall Session, running Sept 14 thru Nov 30, 2011, is now in full swing! Here's just a reminder what you can experience at a Family Night:

☺ *Meal* - entrée, tossed salad, fruit & dessert

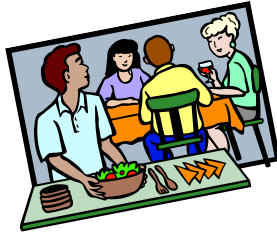
☺ *LinC* - youth 6th-12th grades

☺ *J4J* - kids age 3-5th grades

☺ *Child Care* - 2 yrs & under

☺ *Women's Group* - w/ Samantha Baker

☺ *Men's Group* - w/ Jim Craig



What better way to spend an evening than with your church family, and you don't have to cook! Hope to see you there on as many Wednesday evenings as you can make it.

...a time of fun, fellowship and faith!

FAMILY NIGHT MEAL DONATIONS (Carolyn Craig, Meal Coordinator):

Family Night meals are not a "budgeted" item on Otterbein's Financial Statements. This means they must be funded through your donations of money and nonperishable food items that we can use over the course of time.

There are teams of "Kitchen Crew" helpers in place who are already donating their time and an entrée of their choice for the Wednesday meals. (Thank you, Kitchen Crew!!) The other food items, as well as supplies (paper & plastic products, etc), need to be donated or purchased.

There will continue to be 2 green tubs set out for Family Night donations of nonperishable food items (i.e. - 29-oz cans fruit; brownie mixes; cake mixes and canned frosting; packaged cookies; pudding cups; fruit juices - -for the kids, etc). Look for these green donation tubs beside the table in the entryway of the church, and by the doors to the kitchen. You can donate money toward this program by writing a check, payable to Otterbein UMC, and put "Family Night" on the memo line of your check. There will also be a donation basket set out on Wednesday evenings if you prefer to give cash donations (optional - - \$1.00 or \$2.00 suggested meal donation!) Thanks for your support!



FAMILY NIGHT

J4J (*Jumpin' for Jesus*)

w/ Jane Cox & Cathi Brockman

All kids ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to join us at J4J!

We are looking forward to an awesome year of worship, outreach, Bible lessons, games and fun!!

Bring friends, bring family, bring neighbors, and of course, bring yourselves ☺



LinC (*Life in Christ*)

w/ Adam Baker & Pastor Nicholas

Calling all young adults (6th-12th grade)! Come join us every Wednesday evening during Family Night for games, discussions, service projects, and (insert your *OWN* idea here). Not only will we dive deeper into God's Word, we'll also find fun and practical ways to apply what we learn to our lives. Fun will be had!!!

MEN'S GROUP

(w/ Jim Craig)

I would like to remind all men of the church to come join me on **Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 PM** at the church. (*Remember, we get to eat first--meal starts at 6 PM*)!! Here's a sampling of what we might do for the remainder of the evening:

- Tell about our hobbies/collections.
- Hear from local folks "in the know" about area-wide historical topics.
- Tell about our favorite Christian sports hero or other high-profile figure?
- Hear from grad students in the EIU fitness program on various health topics.
- Come up with mission projects we can do together.
- Tell our own personal faith stories.
- Tell our stories from past to present how Otterbein got where it is today. (*A possible tour of the Bed & Breakfast currently in the former Otterbein 6th St. church might be arranged!*)
- Teach us some "how-to's" (*fix something, build something, do something*).

I would like to encourage you to let me know if you have a passion or expertise in any of the areas listed above so I can get you on the schedule. If you have a friend or acquaintance who may be willing to come share with us, I would also like to have that information! Hope to see you as many Wednesday evenings as you are available!!



Women's Group

(w/ Samantha Baker)



We will begin the fall session discussing the book, Made to Crave by Lysa TerKeurst. Her message is simple: craving isn't a bad thing, but we must realize that God created us to crave more of Him. Many of us have misplaced that craving by overindulging in physical pleasures instead of lasting spiritual satisfaction. We will watch a short DVD session, and then discuss the video and share together. You should be able to follow along perfectly fine without reading the book (*but if you feel that reading the book would benefit you, please feel free to do so!*) Please join us *whenever* you can make it—we would love for you to be a part of our fellowship time, whether you can be there every week or any week that works for your schedule...we would love to see you! This is a great opportunity to get to know other women of Otterbein and be involved ☺

Let Us Not Give Up Meeting Together...

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is available for all ages following Fellowship Time after Sunday morning worship.

•Pre-K through High School Classes

•2 Adult Classes are available
Child care is available in the nursery

Join us anytime in one of these class options! This is an excellent opportunity for your faith development and a time to fellowship with our church family.



Make a Joyful Noise

Anyone can sing, praise or shout to the Lord! Join us on Thursday evenings for choir practice at 5:45pm.

It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp. For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your hands.

(Psalm 92:1-4)

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 (before Sunday School classes begin). The refreshments and coffee will be provided by a different family each month (or possibly several families).

Sept 2011	Harold & Phyllis Hackett
Oct 2011	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn
Nov 2011	Bill & Rose Snider; Jim & Bertha Anderson
Dec 2011	Rex & Joan Johns; Betty Potts
Jan 2012	Butch & Linda Hackett
Feb 2012	Doug & Mary Hennig; Marty & Loretta Buell
Mar 2012	Rick & Sharron Waltrip
Apr 2012	Tom & Shelli Blair
May 2012	John & Brenda Adams
June 2012	Bob & Betty Stoner
July 2012	Ken & Sandy Smallhorn



But Let Us Encourage One Another

(Hebrews 10:25)

OTHER NEWS

Charge Conference

Please note that the charge conference will be held at Charleston Wesley United Methodist Church on Sunday, October 2, 2011 at 5:00pm.



Let Us Pray

If you would like to be added to the prayer chain list, please send a request by email to the church at charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com (to receive updates by email) or contact Dorothy Cox to begin receiving updates by phone.

If you have a prayer concern to add to our prayer chain, please contact Pastor Nicholas (740-513-6199) or email the church at the above email address so we can start the chain as soon as possible.



FINANCE REPORT

Amount needed each Sunday to meet budget
(in general fund): \$ 2,185.00

Weekly Offering (general fund)

8/28/11	\$ 1,645.50
9/4/11	\$ 2,173.00
9/11/11	\$ 1,154.00
9/18/11	\$ 711.80

Monthly mortgage payment:	\$ 1,356.55
Current balance in building fund :	\$ 864.64
Weekly amount needed in building fund :	\$ 339.15

Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (November) will be printed and distributed around the end of October. The deadline to submit articles or information in the November newsletter will be October 24. Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office at charlestonotterbein@yahoo.com if you have information to include.

Meet Eleanor Rice...

Before we arrived at Eleanor's house Ken and I talked about what her story might be. I thought she was a Cow Girl in her younger years. Ken was far more imaginative. He swore she had been a CAN CAN girl in Las Vegas. So after we settled down, I asked her who was right. As it turned out, we were both wrong. Eleanor laughed and said Ken was 100% wrong.

Instead we found out how content she was right here in Charleston. She lives with her two dogs, Dexter who must weigh a whopping one pound and Rowdy who loves pizza. Since she is 87 years old and has fallen recently, Roger her oldest son lives with her to help.

She was born at her grandmother's house just south of Charleston. She was the oldest of three. She was four years old when her brother was born. When her sister was born she was fourteen. They are both deceased.

I asked her what kinds of things did she do as a child and she said she milked the cows, gathered eggs and helped to feed the livestock. For fun she was able to ride the work horse some. (See I was right! She was a cowgirl!)

She grew up in the depression era. She said it really didn't affect her so much except she knew her parents struggled. Her father had a 1929 Hudson. One time a week he would drive into town for supplies. The town square was the "hub" of the city. This was where people did their shopping for every and anything.

Ken asked her if she had ever lived anywhere besides Charleston. She said when she started first grade it was in New Jersey. Her father had relatives out there and he had a job as a mechanic. So she started first grade in New Jersey. Shortly after school started her grandmother fell and broke her hip. So Eleanor and her parents packed up and moved back to Charleston to help her out.

She finished first grade at the Walnut Grove School just off of route 316. It was a one room school house. I jokingly said, "I suppose you had to walk in knee deep snow 10 miles one way just to get to school?" No she replied, " It was just down the lane and across 316 so it wasn't very far. Now when I started second grade, I had to walk down a hill and up a hill and quite a distance." She attended the Clear Spring School just south of the Charleston Country Club. She remembers there being only one teacher for all eight grades. When she reached the 9th grade she went to the Charleston High School that now is home to the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades called Jefferson Elementary.

On June 1, 1947 she married her husband of 37 years, Kenneth Rice. I asked how they met and it was a very sweet story. Eleanor and her friend Norma went to see Erma and Vernon Rice who had just had a baby. Kenneth was there. After she and her friend left, Kenneth told Vernon he was going to marry that gal! After her second visit to see the baby, Kenneth and Eleanor started to date. He was a sweet man. A good man. That was what attracted him to her. They dated for a short time before they married. As she talked about her late husband she had a sparkle in her eye even after all these years.

Continued from page 8...

Eleanor worked at the shoe factory. It was there she got the name Ellie. It carried around the shoe factory but it didn't follow her everywhere. She worked a short time at Walkers Construction as a secretary. She had to quit there because she became pregnant. She pointed at Roger and chuckled as she told us this.

Kenneth worked at Garwood in Mattoon. Garwood was a heavy equipment plant, like Blaw Knox. He was a crane operator. He worked nights for many years.

She became a stay at home mom and loved it. Soon she had four children to care for. She made jeans and shorts for the boys when they were younger. She made all of the girls' dresses and even some of her own. She said her mother tried to teach her how to crochet but it was a lost cause. She did take to knitting, though.

We discussed the changes Charleston has made. Roger said Lincoln Ave was just a two lane non-busy road. Everything west of B Street was corn and beans. There was no County Market, Star Bucks or University Dr.

All of her children live close by except for her daughter Beverly. She lives in Williamsburg Virginia. She just retired from teaching. Roger fixes radios and installs tracking devices in trucks for Rural King. Randy attends Otterbein and drives a truck. Barb is a stay at home mom. She said she had four great children and is proud of them.

Eleanor is a lifelong member of Otterbein. Her parents attended Otterbein as well as her grandparents. Over the years she was the church secretary, a Sunday school teacher as well as the Junior Church Superintendent. She remembers having both Dan and Brad Bircher in her class as well as Mike and Dave Hackett. She refused to tell me which one gave her the most gray hairs.

Roger shared a couple of funny stories. His Uncle Orville, his dad's brother, was a church one day when his Great Uncle Charlie approached him. Orville and Kenneth looked a lot alike, almost like twins. Charlie approached Orville and said, "Kenneth your getting fat as a hog!" Orville just pointed at his brother Kenneth. Charlie looked at Orville then back at Kenneth. He was sure confused.

Roger laughed when he told about having Joan Hutton as a Sunday school teacher. He asked her how many pairs of animals did Moses take with him on the Ark? Immediately Joan answered, "Seventy pairs of clean animals and seventy pairs of unclean."

Roger told her she was wrong. She said no I am sure of it and started flipping through her Bible so she could show him. Then it hit her. It wasn't Moses it was Noah.

Eleanor felt she had an uneventful life and wasn't sure she had anything to say that was worth printing. I am so glad she was wrong!

***Written by Sandy Smallhorn*

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

Eleanor currently resides in Charleston.
If you would like to send a special note or
visit, her address is:

ELEANOR RICE
111 W. FILLMORE
CHARLESTON, IL 61920

Celebrations



Birthdays

10/8 Jade Smyser
 10/12 Cord Hackett
 10/13 Sue Payne
 10/16 Christopher Fitzpatrick
 10/17 Rick Waltrip
 10/23 Lisa Clark
 10/23 Eli Tanner
 10/23 Caitlin Wilson
 10/25 Rose Snider
 10/28 Wayne Cox
 10/29 Bill Snider



Anniversaries

10/11 Tom & Shelli Blair
 10/14 Ray & Alice Seeley
 10/18 Butch & Linda Hackett
 10/20 Marty & Loretta Buell



October Worship Leaders

	<u>10/2</u>	<u>10/9</u>	<u>10/16</u>	<u>10/23</u>	<u>10/30</u>
<u>Greeters</u>	Jim & Carolyn Craig	Dan & Vickie Bircher	Rick & Sharron Waltrip	Jim & Toody Hackett	Bob & Betty Stoner
<u>Acolyte</u>	Ian McDaniel	Alesia Smyser	Deece Schwartz	Tyvon Johnson	Mackenzie Wilson
<u>Ushers</u>	Butch Hackett Brad Bircher Tom Blair Wade Hennig	Marty Buell Dan Bircher Linda Hackett Melody McGrath	Harold Hackett Jim Craig Adam Baker Wade Hennig	Betty Stoner Bill Harrison Rose Snider Bill Snider	Betty Potts Tabatha Bircher Mary Hennig Samantha Baker
<u>Family Cross</u>	Butch & Linda Hackett	Wayne & Jane Cox	Jim & Carolyn Craig	Bob & Betty Stoner	John & Lisa McDaniel
<u>Children's Moment</u>	Carolyn Craig	Samantha Baker	Sandy Smallhorn	Butch Hackett	Joan Johns



OCTOBER 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	3 <u>Finance Mtg</u> 6:30pm	4 <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	5 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	6 Day of Prayer/Fasting <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	7	8 <i>Jade Smyser</i>
9 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	10 Columbus Day (observed)	11 <i>Tom & Shelli Blair</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	12 <i>Cord Hackett</i> <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	13 <i>Sue Payne</i> <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	14 <i>Ray & Alice Seeley</i> <i>Building in Use</i>	15 <i>Building in Use</i>
16 <i>Christopher Fitzpatrick</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	17 <i>Rick Waltrip</i>	18 <i>Butch & Linda Hackett</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	19 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	20 <i>Marty & Loretta Buell</i> <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	21	22
23 <i>Lisa Clark</i> <i>Eli Tanner</i> <i>Caitlin Wilson</i> <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	24 Newsletter Articles Due	25 <i>Rose Snider</i> <u>Women's Bible Study</u> 9:00-10:00am	26 <u>Family Night</u> 6:00-7:30pm	27 <u>Tech 5:00pm</u> <u>Choir 5:45pm</u> <u>Bible Study</u> 6:30-7:30pm	28 <i>Wayne Cox</i>	29 <i>Bill Snider</i> <u>Arts Council (Bldg in Use)</u>
30 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am <u>Sunday School</u> 10:30am	31					

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

OCTOBER 2011

Sunday Morning Worship

9:00 am

Sunday School

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!



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