



# Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

## THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

SEPTEMBER 2015

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### PASTOR'S PERUSALS

By Chuck Trent

CHUCKIN' ALONG FOR THE LORD, By Chuck Trent

A WORD ABOUT PLANNING: It seems that a large can of worms was opened when the administrative council authorized a Planning Saturday to brainstorm about ministry and to get everything that we are going to want to do and that we would like to do the next program year on the calendar.

A DAY OF PLANNING is not just "another meeting." Nor does it replace or usurp the work of any existing committees or ministries. It does not stifle or prohibit any ongoing work in any other area, say, worship, for instance. It works inside of the current frame work, just in addition to it.

IT IS FIRST A TIME OF PRAYER and discernment of what God wants us to do and how best to do it.

IT IS A TIME OF dreaming big, scheduling and evaluating of what we are doing and what else we might do in order to most effectively make disciples for Jesus Christ.

IT IS SOMETHING that can't be done in even a two-hour meeting. A day, preferably away, is a minimum requirement. This takes commitment and time. That is tough in this day and age, but what is the ministry of this congregation worth?

IT IS NOTHING THAT IS 'SET IN STONE.'" Some of the plans that are made will come about exactly the way they were planned; some will be much better; some won't happen at all. That is the way things work.

IT IS, “something we’ve never done before,” but that doesn’t make it a bad thing. This is a tool that large and small congregations in and out of the United Methodist Denomination have been using for years to great effectiveness.

IS IT SOMETHING WE NEED? Well, that depends. If we are sure that we are being the church and making disciples the most effective way possible right now, and can not improve at all, then, “no.” We don’t need it. BUT if anything that we are, or aren’t, doing right now, can be improved upon to find new and better ways of intentionally growing the Body of Christ here at Otterbein, then maybe we just might need it.

BECAUSE MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED, it is my fervent prayer that we will, right now, start setting aside a part of our mind to consciously make time for at least a day for this type of planning for next summer or fall, when we can figure out some ways to better BE THE CHURCH.

Shalom,

*Chuck*

# LAY LEADER'S LINE

**Butch Hackett**

In nearly every major town across the United States, a person can find a monument recognizing someone that had an impact on the community. Enterprise Alabama, however, has a monument dedicated to something that you may think is a little strange. The statue doesn't recognize a leading citizen; it celebrates the boll weevil. That's right, the boll weevil! In the early 1900's, this beetle made its way from Mexico to the southern US. Within a few years, it had destroyed entire crops of cotton, which was the primary source of revenue for the area. In desperation, farmers started growing another crop—peanuts. Realizing they had been dependent on one crop for too long, they credited the work of this beetle with forcing them to diversify, which led to increased prosperity.

On a personal level, we often encounter financial difficulties, sickness, or other barriers that prevent us from pursuing a particular career path. This can also relate to our spiritual lives as is evident with the Apostle Paul when he shares with the Corinthians in his second letter, chapter 12: verses 7-10; (*To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*) My footnote to this passage states that when we are strong in abilities or resources, we are tempted to do God's work on our own, and that can lead to pride. When we are weak, allowing God to fill us with His power, then we are stronger than we could ever be on our own. God does not intend for us to seek to be weak, passive, or ineffective—life provides enough hindrances and setbacks without us creating them. When those obstacles come, we must depend on God. Only His power will make us effective for Him and will help us to do work that has lasting value.

In His grip,

Butch



## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING – July 16, 2015

**ATTENDANCE:** Pastor Chuck Trent, Jane Cox, Jim & Carolyn Craig, Jim Hackett, Butch Hackett, and Sean Hackett (briefly). Excused from the meeting were: Joan Johns, Lisa McDaniel, and Jerry Payne.

The meeting was called to order by Carolyn Craig at 6:30 pm, and Pastor Chuck Trent offered a devotional about trust, with scripture reference Psalm 89:20-29. Minutes of the April 30, 2015 meeting, as well as highlights of the May 3 and June 7 special meetings were read aloud. A motion was made by Butch Hackett, and seconded by Jane Cox, to approve the Minutes as read.

**REPORTS:** Detailed reports submitted by Chairpersons are attached to the original Minutes. Highlights of those reports are shown below:

**Finance, Jane Cox** – July 7, 2015 Otterbein General Fund Acct Balance: \$3,273.30; and 2<sup>nd</sup> Account Balance \$13,460.79. Pastor Nick Gleason's pension amounts still due are \$4,805.68 (Otterbein is paying monthly until all is paid). Mortgage balance: \$132,683.91. New sound system bill has been paid in full. (Later addition: Marcia Lawhead is moving out-of-town, therefore is now off the Finance Committee.)

**Trustees, Jim Hackett** – Items that have been addressed by the trustees: broken sanctuary window; sanctuary entrance doors rekeyed; several trees around the church cut down; 2 kitchen lights replaced; reattachment of a toilet tissue dispenser; replacement of emergency exit lights; sound system replacement; repaired loose shingle; SE sanctuary sump pump discharge was piped into the gutter downspout to get the water farther away from the Sanctuary; W sanctuary gutter cleaned; E gutter cleaned and propped up; gutter repair at the corner of the kitchen/friendship hall; the dysfunctional lights on the sanctuary cross window and outside sign are back on all the time; dogwood tree transplanted in parsonage yard; checked for termites, but were none; and checked on a gas odor in chair/table closet. Immediate action currently needed: extermination for ants.

**Pastor-Parish Relations, Jerry Payne** – No Report. Pastor Chuck stated that there will need to be a joint PPRC meeting with Oakland UMC and Otterbein UMC now that we are on a 2-pt charge.

**Nurture, Joan Johns** – Report submitted per phone call. The Nurture team has not met recently, but items they will be addressing soon are: an Oakland UMC and Otterbein UMC picnic/dinner; VBS; promo for Matt Henson, Evangelistic Services; a Christmas mission project; and whether there may be interest in joining the EIU Homecoming parade (the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade experience was positive).

**Church Camp, Lisa McDaniel** – 9 youth signed up for church camp, 8 attended (1 camp canceled). Total paid for camp: \$2,200.00 (\$275.00 refunded). Prayerfully considering future camp fundraisers as well as asking each family with children attending to donate an amount toward camp expenses. Several camp closures this year will cause fewer camping options in 2016.

**Youth Ministry, Sean Hackett** – Rummage Sale Fundraiser: July 31 & Aug 1, suggested times Fri, 4 pm-? and Sat, 7 am – 1 pm. Outing to Holiday World: Aug 5<sup>th</sup>—participants are paying for their own tickets, but Sean is asking for reimbursement for gas money (Motion made by Butch Hackett, seconded by Jane Cox, motion carried, for Sean Hackett to make his request, along with an estimate of the mileage, to the Finance Committee and they will discuss it at their Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting). Sean would also like to start having more lock-ins at the church this year. (Motion made by Jim Hackett, seconded by Jane Cox, motion carried, for Sean to try one lock-in and see how it goes, and then determine the frequency for them). He has lessons selected for both Fall Sunday School and Family Night sessions. Kendra Smyser is willing to help Sean with the youth as her health allows it.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**2015 Charge Conference Official Roll** – copies handed out. Pastor Chuck will work on setting the date for this year's Charge Conference with the District Superintendent.

**Summer Vespers/Outings** – Met successfully in June. The hope was to hold a special event or another vespers between the Oakland UMC and Otterbein UMC in July. A motion was made by Jim Hackett, seconded by Butch Hackett, motion carried, to put this event on hold until the Nurture Team has a planning meeting. There will be no get-together in August. Pastor Chuck stated that the Oakland UMC is having a Welcome-the-Pastor ice cream social on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. The question was raised if Otterbein can get the name of a contact person from the Oakland UMC so we can be more informed of one another's events. Pastor Chuck is to check on that.

**Fall Evangelistic Services, with Matt Henson** – Nov 8-11, 2015. He comes for a love offering, lodging and meals, and the cost of mileage to and from Albion, IL. Promotion for this event needs to begin soon, and continue to be promoted heavily. It was suggested to assign the promotional needs of this event to the Nurture Team/Joan Johns.

**Grief/Loss Support Group Thoughts** – A Grief Kit was reviewed but felt a bit intense and expensive for Otterbein's use. As well, the kit was geared to "death of a loved one" only, and we are looking for grief/loss not only as loss of a loved one, but other losses as well (jobs, natural disasters, marriages, etc.) Carolyn Craig did a search on the IGRC Media Resource Center website for resources that can be borrowed, and she prepared a review on 8 choices (out of 62) that may be options (handout). It was decided that a survey/signup may be helpful to determine names of interested persons, and available times/dates, before offering anything. Carolyn Craig and the pastor are to work on this.

**Church Letterhead Needs** – It was suggested that Michelle Price, Church Secretary, be asked to design a new Otterbein letterhead, with Joan Johns and Jane Cox to oversee the process.

**Parking Lot, Parking Direction Signs** – Under discussion by the trustees

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Otterbein Outings** (monthly get-togethers) – Since the Nurture Team is already overloaded with the responsibilities of that position, it was brought up that another person/group might be helpful to be in charge of organizing and promoting monthly Otterbein fellowship get-togethers. Carolyn Craig has volunteered to give this a try, if she can recruit 4 or 5 people from the congregation to help her.

**Prayer List, Prayer Chain List, General Church Info List Updating** (handout) – Joan Johns and Jane Cox will be working with the church secretary to update these lists.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**

**VBS:** Scheduled for Sat, Aug 8, 2015. Jane Cox will be heading this up.

**Family Night**, w/Jane Cox, Sean Hackett, and the Pastor. Start date: Sept 9, 2015. Jane Cox will continue coordinating meals. Carolyn Craig is to buy paper products at GFS for the Fall session.

**Sunday School** - Start date: Sept 13, 2015, 10:45-11:30. Children's curriculum needs approval of the Sunday School Superintendents. Jane Cox will be using Group resources. Still need to determine what Sandy Smallhorn will be using.

**Fellowship Time** – 10:30 – 10:45 am, starting Sept 13, 2015. Butch Hackett will handle sign-ups.

**Church Calendar Planning Retreat** – Aug 29, 9 am – 1 pm, w/lunch provided (proposed time/date). This is to be a worship, visioning, and calendar scheduling session for the 2015-16 calendar year. ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS ARE REQUESTED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE. Pastor Chuck, with Carolyn Craig's help, will set the Agenda.

**Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner** – Butch Hackett stated that wheels are in motion for Otterbein to host a Memorial Community Thanksgiving Dinner in honor of Harold Hackett, Sr. at the church this year.

**Request** – Jim Hackett has asked to borrow tables from the church on Aug 14 & 15, 2015.

**PASTOR'S REPORT, Pastor Chuck Trent** – He will be taking 2 Sundays off in August (t/b/d). The Oakland and Otterbein worship schedule has worked OK so far. Mission-U is coming up in Aug and Debra Bircher will be going along as a youth representative in the youth program for this event. The pastor took Kenny Smallhorn for a visit to East Bay Camp while others from the church were attending camp. July 26-30, Pastor Chuck is to be serving as a Chaplain at an East Bay Camp, but will have to cut his time there short as he is scheduled to have another stent procedure on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Two youth were confirmed this spring.

**NEXT AD COUNCIL MEETING DATE:** Thurs, Oct 1, 2015, 6:30 pm

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

- >For Otterbein UMC members "to come back home"
- >For Kendra Smyser's health
- >For friend of Kayla Donley's (Macy) – her dad, Todd White (in his 40's), passed away
- >For family of Dr. Schuster--his sister's husband (age 54) died suddenly

**ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING PRAYER:** Motion made by Jim Hackett, seconded by Jane Cox, motion carried, to adjourn the meeting. Carolyn Craig closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Craig, Recording Secretary

Let us continue to remember our shut-in and homebound members.  
Please remember them in your prayers and feel free to visit or send a card ☺

### Francis Adkins

Odd Fellow Rebekah Home  
201 Lafayette E  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
*Birthday: 5/25*

### Jim & Bertha Anderson

13250 E Cty Rd 210N  
Charleston, IL 61920

### Joan Hutton

Hilltop Conv. Center  
910 W. Polk Rm. 209  
Charleston, IL 61920  
*Birthday: 4/21*

### Tom Watson

2200 Madison Ave.  
Charleston, IL 61920  
*Birthday: 8/10*



### Eleanor Rice

Heartland Christian Village  
101 Trowbridge Rd  
Neoga, IL 62447  
*Birthday: 2/9*

## 2015 Worship Leaders

Please check the website for a current list of Worship Leaders for 2015. These include Greeters, Acolytes, Ushers, Family Cross and Children's Moment Leaders. We appreciate your involvement in our weekly worship service.

## Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (Oct 2015) will be printed and distributed around the first week in October. The deadline to submit articles or information in the October newsletter will be **Thursday, Sept 17th**. Please contact Michelle Price (217) 549-7285 or email the church office if you have information to include.

## Please Note

If you need to reach  
Pastor Chuck Trent

Cell (618) 262-3409

chucktrent47@gmail.com



## Family Night Fall Start up

Wed Sept 16

6:00-6:30 pm Meal & Fellowship

6:30-7:30 for the Whole Family

J4J (Kid's Club) W / Jane Cox

LinC (Youth Group) W / Sean Hackett

Bible Study (Adults) W / Pastor Chuck

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# FINANCE REPORT

Please note the following figures and reports provided by the Finance Team.

Not, how much of my money will I give to God, but how much of God's money will I keep for myself.



— John Wesley

## MONTHLY EXPENSES PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

Ameren CIPS (Church)	\$ 495.00
City of Charleston (Water Dept)	\$ 26.00
Conf. Group Health Ins. (Pastor)	\$ 1,525.00
Consolidated Comm. (Church)	\$ 93.00
IGRC Missions	\$ 1,062.00
IGRC Pension (Pastor)	\$ 836.00
Childress Mowing	\$ 160.00
Janitor/Secretary Wages	\$ 494.04
Maintenance Supplies	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 40.00
Chuck Trent	\$ 2,380.26
Chuck Trent TV/Hse. Phone	\$ 120.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 41.00
Postage	\$ 49.00
Print Co (Newsletter)	\$ 24.00
SS Material	\$ 72.00
Upper Room/Devozine	\$ 27.00
<u>State Farm Ins. (Bldg &amp; Work Comp)</u>	<u>\$ 285.15</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,779.45</b>
<b>Weekly</b>	<b>\$ 1,245.00</b>

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



# Celebrations



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

## Birthdays

9/08	Betty Potts Sean Hackett
9/11	Larry McGrath
9/15	Michelle Price
9/18	Paula Dennis John McDaniel
9/26	Carolyn Craig
9/28	Gabe Menser

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



## September Worship Leaders



	<u>09/06</u>	<u>09/13</u>	<u>09/20</u>	<u>09/ 27</u>
<b><u>Greeters</u></b>	Sharon Johns	Larry & Melody McGrath	Jim & Carolyn Craig	Dorothy Cox & Family
<b><u>Acolyte</u></b>	Tyvon Smallhorn	Ian McDaniel	Deece Schwartz	Omarion Smallhorn
<b><u>Family Cross</u></b>	Butch & Linda Hackett	Betty Potts	Rick & Sharron Waltrip	Dorothy Cox & Family
<b><u>Ushers</u></b>	Bill Snider Rose Snider Doug Hennig Mary Hennig	Betty Potts Randy Rice Sandy Smallhorn Brad Bircher	Rick Waltrip Larry McGrath Melody McGrath Sharron Waltrip	Alesia Smyser Austin Hackett Kenny Smallhorn Mackenzie Wilson
<b><u>Children's Moment</u></b>		Betty Potts	Joan Johns	Jane Cox





# September 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	2 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Youth Group</u> 6pm-7:30pm  <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	3 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm  <b>Fall / Winter Calendar Planning 6pm</b>	4 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	5
6 <u>Worship</u> 9:30am	7 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	8 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm  Betty Potts  <b>happy birtday</b>	9 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Youth Group</u> 6pm-7:30pm  <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	10 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	11 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm  Larry McGrath  <b>happy birtday</b>	12
13 <u>Worship</u> 9:30am	14 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm  <b>Finance Meeting 6:30p</b>	15 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm  Michelle Price  <b>happy birtday</b>	16 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm  <u>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm  <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	17 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm  <b>Newsletter Articles due</b>	18 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm  Paula Dennis John McDaniel  <b>happy birtday</b>	19
20 <u>Worship</u> 9:30am <u>Fellowship</u> 10:30-10:45 <u>Sunday School</u> 10:45-11:30	21 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	22 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	23 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm  <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	24 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	25 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	26  Carolyn Craig  <b>happy birtday</b>
27 <u>Worship</u> 9:30am <u>Fellowship</u> 10:30-10:45 <u>Sunday School</u> 10:45-11:30	28 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm Gabe Menser  <b>happy birtday</b>	29 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	30 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm <u>Family Night</u> 6pm-7:30pm  <u>AA Mtg 8:00pm</u>	<b>Upcoming Events:</b> <b>Ad Council Meeting</b> Oct 1 - 6:30pm <b>Charge Conference @ Otterbein UMC</b> Oct 25 @ 2 pm <b>Fall Evangelistic Services w/Matt Henson</b> Nov 8- 11		

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



# THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER



SEPTEMBER 2015

Sunday Morning Worship	9:30 a.m.
Sunday School	10:45 a.m.

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

**CONTACT US:**

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www.charlestonotterbein.org (webpage)

[www.facebook.com/groups/CharlestonOtterbeinUMC](http://www.facebook.com/groups/CharlestonOtterbeinUMC)

**All are welcome!**