

Otterbein United Methodist Church

Charleston, Illinois

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

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

SUMMER 2013



PRAISE VBS

Our week of Vacation Bible School is officially complete! We had a great week of fun, Bible lessons, crafts, games, a mission project, snacks and karaoke, and lots of opportunities for praise and worship of our awesome God!!!

We averaged 21 kids per evening (Sunday through Wednesday, June 23-26) and had a total of <u>29 different kids</u> and 28 leaders/helpers attend throughout the week. Our attendance was cut a little short on a few evenings due to ball games and other family activities, but overall the kids and leaders seemed to have a great time, and we learned 5 new ways that we can PRAISE GOD!

We are continuing to collect funds to contribute towards our mission project for the week, through OneVerse, which translates the Bible into different languages all over the world. Please see Derek Hennig or Samantha Baker if you have questions on how you can help. So far, we have raised enough money to translate

14 verses!! Our goal was to translate 10 verses (to surpass last year's total of 9 verses)...so we PRAISE GOD for his Greatness, Authority, Providence, Power & Love!!! We are amazed and so very thankful that we met this goal to help bring more people to knowing Jesus all over the world!

We would like to say a special <u>THANK YOU</u> to all of you for your support of VBS, through your prayers, your presence, your gifts (monetary and donations) and your service (all of your help in putting the program together—set-up, leading the kids, behind the scenes, etc!) It takes the whole church to put together a successful VBS, and we couldn't have done it without YOU!!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

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PASTOR'S CHAT

Pastor Nicholas Gleason

Dear Friends,

I pray this letter finds you well and blessed. As we enter into this new summer season, I'm looking forward to this break from the routine. Summer is when I am most aware of all the things you can enjoy for free, such as parks, walking trails, and street festivals.

I hope you find time to rest, to have a picnic in the park, enjoy a good book under a shady tree, or throw a Frisbee around with your family and friends. We need time to rest. Rest is part of the rhythm of life. Rest nourishes us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

In his book, <u>Sabbath</u>, Wayne Muller described the busyness of life as a kind of violence. We do so much wear and tear to our bodies and souls when we are racing from one appointment to the next. As we feel rushed and tired, we fall into survival mode. We start barking out orders to get things done. Every new opportunity is met with exhaustion. Our relationships begin to be strained within this mental state.

Muller portrays rest as a time of healing. We need these lazy summers to nourish and refresh our bodies and souls. To stop and smell the roses, to remember that everything is meant to be a blessing, and to delight and offer thanks for the wonder of it all.

I had the unfortunate (I mean joyful) experience recently of sitting down with a professor whose passion was gardening. And he shared with me the wisdom of dormancy (for three whole hours).

If certain plant species, for example, do not lie dormant for winter, they will not bear fruit in the spring. If this continues for more than a season, the plant begins to die. If dormancy continues to be prevented, the entire species will die.

A period of rest – in which nutrition and fertility most readily coalesce – is not simply a human psychological convenience; it is a spiritual and biological necessity. A lack of dormancy produces confusion and erosion in the life force.

So as your pastor, I command you to use your summer break wisely. Go out and take a nature walk through Fox Ridge Park. Grab that book you have been trying to find time all year to read, and find a nice shady tree in one of our beautiful local parks. Or grab those kids and toss a Frisbee around.

Because next fall, we have lots of exciting activities starting up, and I need all of you to be fully nourished and refreshed!

Shalom,

Nicholas





LAY LEADER'S LINE

Butch Hackett

In my daily devotional, David Roper tells a story about walking along a Texas creek with his brother-in-law Ed and Ed's 3 year old son, David. David had been collecting smooth round stones from the stream while he walked. He called them "piggies", because their rounded shape reminded him of little pigs.

David had stuffed a number of "piggies" in his pockets, and after running out of pockets he began carrying them in his arms. After a while he began to stagger under the load and lag behind. It was obvious he would never make it back to the house without help, so Ed said, "Here, David, let me carry your piggies." Reluctance clouded David's face for a moment, and then it lit up, "I know," he said, "You carry me and I'll carry my piggies!"

Aren't we like David sometimes? We have this childish insistence that we must carry our own load. We spiritually tell Jesus to carry us while we will carry our "piggies" of guilt, pride, shame, or some other burden that we've allowed to attach to ourselves.

In 1 Peter 5:5-7, we are told "Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because:

[God opposes the proud

But gives grace to the humble.]

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (NIV)

We should never have to carry our load alone. Carrying our worries, stresses, and daily struggles by ourselves shows that we have not trusted God fully with our lives. It takes humility, however to recognize that God cares, to admit your need, and to let others in God's family help you. Sometimes we think that struggles caused by our own sin and foolishness are not God's concern. But when we turn to God in repentance, he will bear the weight even of those struggles. Letting God have your anxieties calls for action, not passivity. Don't submit to circumstances, but to the Lord who controls circumstances.

In His Grip,

Butch



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

Humility is like underwear. We should have it, but not let it show!

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)

As the busy Spring ministry season has come to a close, an inspiring Mission Trip has concluded, and kids are now off to summer camps, our thoughts are turning toward the Fall possibilities. The Family Night Team has already met, so here is a "sneak-peak" for what you might experience on Wednesday evenings for the **Family Night 2013-14 season**:

- <u>Projected 2013-14 Calendar</u>: <u>Weds, Sept 4 May 21</u>, w/breaks for Thanksgiving (Nov 27); Winter Break (Dec 11–Jan 1); Ash Weds/Spring Break (Mar 5&12); and Holy Week (Apr 16).
- Meals (6 pm) Will continue as in the past, lining up volunteers to prepare/furnish an entrée for 1 or 2 meals per quarter. Another way to volunteer is to donate such items as cake or brownie mixes, frosting, peanut butter/jelly, salad dressings, pudding cups, & canned fruit. Place them on the shelves marked "Family Night Supplies" in the room across from the kitchen. Money can be donated by placing a check or envelope in the offering plate marked "Family Night". If you do not feel you are able to prepare an entrée, but would like to pay for the cost of it (such as burgers, pizza, subs, etc) for an evening where no volunteers are lined up to prepare the entrée, please see Carolyn Craig. (Approx cost: \$35)
- Youth & Elementary Groups (6:30-7:30 pm) The youth (w/Adam Baker & Sean Hackett); and the elementary group (w/Jane Cox) will continue much the same as last season. They may join with the entire Weds night participants when a special programming evening is planned.
- Adults (6:30-7:30 pm) In the past, we've tried men's/women's Bible Studies... then a "projects" year. Next season we're going to try the men's/women's groups together, using a rotation of programming for each week of the month. Here's a SAMPLE for how it might look:
 - A Lesson Week Using a book entitled "Bible Answers For Almost All Your Questions".
 - A Missions/Outreach Week Visit a shut-in; or take an evening to write short notes or sign cards of encouragement, and mail them to a shut-in or homebound person; or do a missions project night. (That's just a small sampling of ideas).
 - <u>A Library Week</u> Goal is to get the new church library up and running by Sept! If that is the case, then I will be lining up a person(s) ahead of time to go into the library and choose a book or a magazine article to read, and then share with us something of interest from what he/she read. You might even get to witness a hands-on inspirational lesson by means of a food prepared on the spot from one of the library cookbooks—then you'll get to taste it!

- An Activity Week This can be as simple as a Talent Night with all ages; or a Corn Hole or Hillbilly Horseshoe Tournament. It might also be a projects' evening, in conjunction with a missions project, where we assemble items such as:
 - ✓ **Ready-to-Go Packs for the Homeless/Needy** Fill bags w/water bottles, non-perishable snacks, wash cloths/toiletry items, & an encouraging card (and perhaps a fast food gift card, etc.) Make them available to the congregation to hand out when there's a need.
 - ✓ Bless those who regularly serve others Make something special for the Sunday School teachers; bring flowers and assemble a special bouquet for the church secretary, etc.
 - ✓ White-out Shower Collect anything "white" ahead of time (i.e. Kleenex, napkins, toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, cotton balls, Q-tips, kitchen towels, sheets, laundry soap, athletic socks, light bulbs... get creative). Spend an evening assembling them in packs of like-items to donate to a place such at Standing Stone
 - ✓ ... and more ideas in the works!!
- 5th-Wednesday-of-the-Month Special (Prayer & Praise Evening) There will be two "5th-Wednesdays-of-the-month" during the 2013-14 season (October 30th and April 30th). This will be an "all-church" spontaneous evening... singing your favorite hymns or other songs; special music, or simply sharing "what God has been up to in your life lately" moments.

Hope this has gotten your attention and you will plan to join us in September! Remember, we're not looking to hand out "perfect attendance" awards. You don't have to be there every week. Come when you can! It's a great evening of fun and fellowship and we might even learn something that we'll want to share with others in the process! Keep the "hubbub" going—making a joyful noise about what's coming in September!!

Looking Ahead...

The next monthly newsletter (Sept. 2013) and will be printed and distributed around the end of August. The deadline to submit articles or information in the September newsletter will be **Thursday**, **August 15**. Please contact Samantha Baker or email the church office if you have information to include.



Please Note!

If you need to reach Pastor Nicholas:

Cell Phone: $(740)\ 513-6199$

Home Phone: (217) 345~2046

Intentional Faith Development

During the summer, we will be taking a brief break from several of our regular activities. They will resume in the fall--stay tuned for details!



NO Sunday School

NO Fellowship Time

NO Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

NO Wednesday Night Family Night

NO Thursday Evening Bible Study



Enjoy the summer with your families!

Please remember our shut-ins in your prayers! Their addresses are below if you'd like to visit or send a special note to let them know that we are thinking of them \odot

Francis Adkins

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

Joan Hutton

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

Fern Pearcy

321 West Van Buren Charleston, IL 61920 *Birthday: 6/12*

Raymond Plath

Brookstone Estates 314 Lincoln Hwy. Rd Charleston, IL 61920 *Birthday: 3/10*

Eleanor Rice

Heartland Christian Village 101 Trowbridge Rd, Rm. 102 Neoga, IL 62447 *Birthday: 2/9*

Tom Watson

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





FINANCE REPORT

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

LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

	Amt Received	Amt Needed	Over/(Short)
5/26	\$ 1,701.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 484.00)
•			,
6/2	\$ 1,941.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 244.00)
6/9	\$ 2,045.53	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 139.47)
6/16	\$ 1,055.32	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,129.68)
6/23	\$ 1,273.51	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 911.49)
<u>6/30</u>	\$ 991.00	\$ 2,185.00	(\$ 1,194.00)
TOTAL	\$ 9,007.36	\$ 13,110.00	(\$ 4,102.64)





BUILDING FUND

Current Balance

6/2	\$ 2,508.24
6/9	\$ 1,591.69
6/16	\$ 1,651.69
6/23	\$ 1,711.69
6/30	\$ 1 871 69

Monthly Mortgage Payment \$ 1,356.55

MONTHLY EXPENSES PAID BY LOOSE PLATE/TITHE

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
Worship Service	\$ 30.00
TOTAL	\$ 8,729.00
Weekly	\$ 2,182.25

Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

Deuteronomy 15:10 (NIV)

July Worship Leaders

	<u>7/7</u>	<u>7/14</u>	<u>7/21</u>	7/28
<u>Greeters</u>	Randy & Becky Rice	Marty & Loretta Buell	Bob & Betty Stoner Sherry Strode	Raymond & Sharon Johns
<u>Acolyte</u>	Mackenzie Wilson	Christopher Schulz	Ian McDaniel	Debra Bircher
<u>Ushers</u>	Randy Rice Butch Hackett Doug Hennig Mary Hennig	Phyllis Hackett Cathi Brockman Betty Potts Vickie Bircher	Derek Hennig Adam Baker Clinton Tribby Bill Harrison	Shelli Blair Lisa McDaniel Crystal Schulz Samantha Baker
Family Cross	Jim Hackett	Wayne & Jane Cox	Cathi Brockman	Jeremy & Tiffany Fitzpatrick
<u>Children's</u> <u>Moment</u>	Samantha Baker	Carolyn Craig	Pastor Nicholas	Jane Cox





August Worship Leaders

	<u>8/4</u>	<u>8/11</u>	<u>8/18</u>	<u>8/25</u>
Greeters	Rick & Sharron Waltrip	Clinton & Bonnie Tribby	Harold & Phyllis Hackett	Jim & Carolyn Craig
<u>Acolyte</u>	Deece Schwartz	Kenny Smallhorn	Keridwen McDaniel	Kayla Donley
<u>Ushers</u>	Jim Craig Carolyn Craig Bill Snider Rose Snider	Marty Buell Cathi Brockman Rick Waltrip Tom Blair	Randy Rice Ron Hall Betty Potts Betty Stoner	Mackenzie Wilson Keridwen McDaniel Kenny Smallhorn Debra Bircher
Family Cross	Austin & Sean Hackett	Pastor Nicholas	Rex & Joan Johns	Bob & Betty Stoner
<u>Children's</u> <u>Moment</u>	Samantha Baker	Carolyn Craig		Jane Cox

Celebrations

July Birthdays

7/1	Kendra Smyser
7/2	Mary Hennig
7/3	Hilary Donley
7/7	Darren Hackett
7/8	Danny Schwartz
7/11	Kayla Donley
7/12	Dave Hackett
7/23	Jacob Mohon
7/27	Jason Anderson
7/29	Brad Bircher

July Anniversaries

7/8 Michael & Hilary Donley
7/13 Danny & Rachel Schwartz





August Anniversaries

8/6	Raymond & Sharon Johns
8/8	Gabe & Jayna Menser
8/24	Larry & Melody McGrath
8/30	Doug & Barb Carr
8/30	Jared & Samantha Tanner

August Birthdays

8/6	Mark Rice
8/8	Bertha Anderson
8/10	Tom Watson
8/14	Phyllis Hackett
8/17	Adam Baker
8/17	Omarion Johnson
8/17	Zoey Smyser
8/18	Shayna Williams
8/19	Shelli Blair
8/23	Kaitlin Mohon
8/27	Clinton Tribby
8/27	Ken Smallhorn
8/27	Lexi Stone
8/30	Bill Harrison



JULY 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
- v	1 Kendra Smyser Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	2 Mary Hennig Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	3 Hilary Donley Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm AA Mtg 8:00pm	4 Independence Day Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	5 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	6
7 Darren Hackett Worship 9:00am	8 Danny Schwartz Michael & Hilary Donley Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm Finance Mtg 6:30pm	9 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm Nurture Mtg 6:00pm	10 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm AA Mtg 8:00pm	11 Kayla Donley Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	12 Dave Hackett Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	13 Danny & Rachel Schwartz
14 Worship 9:00am	15 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	16 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	17 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm AA Mtg 8:00pm	18 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	19 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	20
21 Worship 9:00am	22 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	23 Jacob Mohon Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	24 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm AA Mtg 8:00pm	25 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	26 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	27 Jason Anderson
28 Worship 9:00am	29 Brad Bircher Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	30 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	31 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm AA Mtg 8:00pm ~ 10 ~			

~ 10 ~

AUGUST 2013 PER PROPERTY AUGUST 2013 PER PROPE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	
4 <u>Worship</u> 9:00 am	5 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm Finance Mtg	6 Mark Rice Raymond & Sharon Johns Soup Stop	7 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm AA Mtg 8:00pm	8 Bertha Anderson Gabe & Jayna Menser Soup Stop	9 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	10 Tom Watson
	6:30pm	10:30am-1pm	о.оори	10:30am-1pm		
11 Worship	12 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	13 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	14 Phyllis Hackett Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	17 Adam Baker Omarion Johnsor Zoey Smyser
9:00am	10.50am-1pm	Nurture Mtg 6:00pm	AA Mtg 8:00pm	Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm		
18 Shayna Williams Worship	19 Shelli Blair Soup Stop	20 Soup Stop	21 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	22 Newsletter Articles Due	23 Kaitlin Mohon Soup Stop	24 Larry & Melody McGrath
9:00am	10:30am-1pm	10:30am-1pm	AA Mtg 8:00pm	Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	10:30am-1pm	Building in Use
25 <u>Worship</u> 9:00am	26 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm	27 Clinton Tribby Ken Smallhorn Lexi Stone Soup Stop	28 Soup Stop 10:30am-1pm AA Mtg	29 <u>Soup Stop</u> 10:30am-1pm	30 Bill Harrison Doug & Barb Carr Jared & Samantha Tanner	31
		10:30am-1pm	8:00pm		10:30am-1pm	

THE OTTERBEIN ENCOURAGER

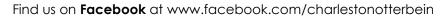
SUMMER 2013

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)



All are welcome!



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