

The Wesley Message From Center Street

Clarence UMC Quarterly newsletter

1st Quarter 2011

Volume 1 Issue I



REV'S RAMBLE

At the time of this ramble I am sitting in my office reflecting on the past holiday season. What a joy and a blessing it has been. There seems to be a heightened sense of joy and peace at this time of year. My prayer for each of you this year is that you keep Christmas alive in your hearts for the entire year. I know that it seems impossible at times, but we need to continually strive to make sure that we keep that spirit of love, peace, hope and joy alive and well in our daily lives. Now let's look ahead to 2011. I have been thinking about what my vision for this church is for the coming year.

I, and so should everyone in the church, am pleased with the wonderful things going on with our youth. The Wednesday after school program is reaching a whole new generation of potential Disciples. It is in the very capable hands of Elizabeth Barr and Lisa Schoonover. But they cannot do it by themselves. They need help. We have over 30 children participating in this program and they need some more adults willing to step up and be available. If we had 8 people, two people each week, that would be there to help out we would be in compliance with the safe sanctuaries directive from the conference office. If you do the math, that is 1 hour a month. That is 10 hours a year, a small price to pay to share the stories of the bible and the love of Christ to these children. The high school and middle school youth, led by Amy Presson, is going great. But again Amy needs our help. We have between 18-25 high school and middle school youth in our program. We need to have one adult for every six children. So, as you can see, she needs help. Again if we had eight people who would agree to help one Sunday night per month that is 10 hours a year, since we don't meet during the summer. What better way to serve the Lord than to help with the young people in our community.

Contemporary worship is still going on and although the attendance is not where I had hoped it would be

Jesus tells us "That wherever two or more are gathered, there I will be also." With that in mind, I want to continue the Saturday night service until school is out and reevaluate it at that time. I feel that there is a need in our church for an alternative time and style of worship.

Please pray about these things, and if you find it in your heart, see one of the leaders of the programs and they will get you plugged in where there is the most need. Thank you in advance for making the decision to help. It is such a small price to pay to do so much good.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH,
PASTOR LARRY

Soup & Sandwich Meal

A Soup and Sandwich Meal, prepared by Alan Spencer, will be held Sunday, January 16, 2011 at 12:00 noon in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Macon UMC. A brief program by the state president of PAUMCS, Barbara Buck, will be given immediately following the meal. Free will donation. Funds to be used for a PAUMCS Conference that Dawn will attend to better equip her for her duties at the Macon UMC.

Clarence UMC

December 2010 Meeting

Members of the Clarence UMC Board met December 1st for the regular monthly meeting. Attending were Amy Presson, Ruth Wood, Susan McCarty, Barbara Chittum, Terry Mefford, Jeff Barry, Lee Schoonover, Sharon Schoonover, Pastor Larry, and Lynda Proper.

Pastor Larry prayed that the Lord bless our meeting and the work to be done. Terry opened the meeting. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved with one revision: the purchase price of the property east of our church property is not \$1,000 but is \$1,200.

Amy presented the Treasurer's report which was reviewed and approved.

Jeff reported for the Trustees. Gravel for the parking lots has been spread by the county. The secretary was authorized to send them a thank you note for their donation of hauling it. Jeff stated that there has been \$3,070.00 raised through donations to purchase the aforementioned property. The boundary is Liberty Street on the south, north along Broad Street to the alleyway, then west to church property, then south to Liberty Street. Lee moved to proceed with the purchase; Ivan 2nd the motion. Motion passed. The additional funds above the purchase price will be used to clean up the property. The house has been taken down already, but the rubble needs to be disposed of. The owner, Jason Rife, is to provide the title insurance and the contract cost to be split between the church and Mr. Rife. Jeff will meet tomorrow (Thursday) with Mr. Rife to negotiate the purchase.

A preliminary PPR Meeting was held last night to fill out the yearly forms. A Budget Meeting for the 2011 was scheduled for Tuesday, December 28, 2010, at 7 p.m. The regular monthly men's breakfast meeting will be held at the Veteran's annual breakfast, beginning at 6:45 a.m. at the Veteran's Hall. Also, the Christian Church is hosting a breakfast for the men in January. The UMW is holding their Christmas Party at 2 p.m. tomorrow, December 2nd.

Barbara reported about the history book. More proofreading and corrections are being done, and then it should be ready to print. There

have been 132 books ordered. There will be no extras printed.

Safe Sanctuary training may be needed for some members who are working with children's programs. Kids After School currently needs help with two of their trips, one to a Christmas movie, and the other for Christmas caroling. These events are scheduled for December 15th & 17th. We should have a ratio of 1 to 6 adults to accompany the children. Amy reported that plans for her Youth Group to go skiing at Weston, MO are completed. There are about 20 going on December 18th.

DeEtte stated that the board needs to provide training for others in the PowerPoint program. At the present time only Dawn Masten can prepare programming for Saturday night and Sunday morning services. The board agreed that the secretary needs to be trained in preparing and operating the video, audio equipment, and that it needs to be included in the Secretary's job description. Discussion followed, with the consensus being that Dawn will be asked to train the secretary to prepare and operate the system. Any one else who would like to be trained to operate the system may attend the class also. Several should be trained and perhaps assignments made to share operations. An announcement will be made in the Sunday bulletin as soon as a time, place and trainer can be found.

Ivan requested that the 2-seat pew be moved to the short 2nd row pew space by the piano, and then the short pew be moved to the back wall. He wants to move these two pews to alleviate the crowding in this area, especially on communion Sundays. His request was approved.

Susan requested we clean the small room north east of the sanctuary, and to discard the TV monitor packing boxes, and other trash. She will clean this room and DeEtte offered to clean another small room.

Other items discussed were the need for someone to turn on the heat/AC and to unlock the church Sunday mornings. Sometimes there are problems no one knows how to correct. Ruth will talk to John Wood as he is knowledgeable about operating the heating/cooling system, who can train someone else. The secretary was authorized to purchase church supplies including furnace filters. The filters will be replaced as needed by the Janitor. Pastor Larry

reported that he meets each Friday morning with other Clarence ministers to coordinate Ministerial Alliance missions.

DeEtte closed the meeting with prayer.

UMC History Book Update

The proofreaders for the history book finished their reading in November. The in-house reader has now finished corrections for consistency. The publisher will have the history book ready for distribution by the last week in January.

Barbara Chittum, editor

Birthdays and Anniversaries

January

2. Lynda Proper
5. Mildred Hirrlinger
11. Abbie Sickal
12. Brent Wood
13. Dawn Ann Masten
14. Isabel Hutcherson
15. Danny Walker
18. Brent Weisenborn
20. Ruth Wood
Glen Wallace
21. Martha Mason
23. Jeanna Rutter
27. Sharon Schoonover
31. Ross Hunter Wood
Joslynn Mae Mefford

February

1. Barbara Chittum
4. Steve Foster
5. Glenna Daniel
6. Miles Hutcherson
10. Colt Adam Threlkeld
11. Paul & Kim Hutcherson, Anniv.
12. Kirsten Schuster Magruder
13. Sarah Hoffman
14. Berna Fae Loft
15. Martha McVay
Drew Boling
16. Jim & Marsha Collins, Anniv.
18. Kinley Marie Maddex (2009)
21. Tom & Joyce Ellyson, Anniv.
23. Kathy Gerrish
24. Harold & Martha McVay,
Anniv.
26. Jill Barry
Wilma Dorothy Chambers
27. Emilee Danielle Barr
29. Scott & Kim Thompson,
Anniv.

March

1. Jaylah Eckert
Earl Walker
4. Josh Bentley
5. Ivan & DeEtte Carroll, Anniv.
6. E. W. Carroll
7. John Quinley
Linda Thrasher
8. Brian & Shana Threlkeld, Anniv
13. Lee Schoonover

22. Clara Jane Wood
23. Terry & Angie Mefford,
Anniv
25. Marsha Collins
Brock Wood
Ann Mefford
26. Rose Lee Masten
27. Warren Pflum
28. Katti Carroll
31. Sharri Kemp

UMW Has Christmas Meeting

Members of the UMW met December 2, 2010 for the final meeting of the year. As is customary for the group, no formal business meeting for December was conducted. Those attending presented their memories of past Christmas's. Special guest was Pastor Larry, and the group presented a tray of assorted fruit to him and wife Becky. We also had sent our donation to the Angel Tree project, a county wide project, in November.

We had also sent musical Christmas cards to our shut-in church members, as we had last year. With so many having health issues, and in that they receive a number of food gifts at this time of year, we had decided that cards would be more welcome. It was reported that these cards were very well received.

Our wish to all is to have a glorious new year. Our wish is that families be blessed with God's love, with healing where it is needed, and to bring to everyone a spirit of great kindness. The world's gravest ills are brought on by those who have self-serving motives, and we pray for them. We show our love of God most each day by how we live our lives.

Our meetings will resume in March 2011 with Lynda as hostess. We are in hopes of increasing our numbers at that time.



God's Wings

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. Then the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast...because she had been willing to die, so those under the cover of her wings would live. 'He will cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you will find refuge.' (Psalm 91:4)

Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have. You will treasure it even more when you can share it with someone Special.

To realize the value of a Friend...lose one.

I have included some "helpful" information I have received via email from family and friends. Perhaps sharing these will help to lighten your day. Enjoy!!

Paraprosdokian sentences:

a figure of speech that uses an unexpected ending to a series or phrase.

I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.

Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish.

I thought I wanted a career, turns out I just wanted pay checks.

A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it.

Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says "If an emergency, notify:" I put "DOCTOR".

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a

parachute to skydive twice.

The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas!

Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back.

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.

Some cause happiness wherever they go. Others whenever they go.

There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.

You're never too old to learn something stupid.

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

Some people hear voices. Some see invisible people. Others have no imagination whatsoever.

A bus is a vehicle that runs twice as fast when you are after it as when you are in it.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

