

The Wesley Message From Center Street

Clarence UMC Monthly Newsletter November 2008

Volume 1 Issue



Our family has been extremely blessed with the birth of Zander William Cragg. As our “kids” age, the possibility of new grandchildren would have seemed to have diminished. Zechariah has been such a joy to Randy and Karen, but also to his aunts and uncles and cousins. And now we all accept Zander and look forward to the “boys” growing up together.

It is surely true that the birth of a child is such a miracle, so precious are they, and life changing to the families that appreciate and support them.

Many would share that their “**Born Again**” experience brought new life and a new spirit in their lives and those around them. Isn’t that a part of the plan God has for each of us? To be born of the water and the spirit is truly a life changing event, maybe tops all other experiences of newness in life.

“**Born again, there really has been a change in me,**” are the words of a song I really appreciate. Being Born Again and filled with the Holy Spirit gives the Lord the opportunity to open new doors in our Spiritual Journeys. Oh, what peach He brings, what heart warming and goose bumps He provides.

It seems so simple, doesn’t it, to be “**Born Again.**” There it is in the Word, “Ye must be Born Again.”

Isn’t it your desire to experience life-altering events? Do you feel the Holy Spirit tugging, maybe even nudging you to enter into God’s plan for your life? Will we admit it is all because of Jesus and His love for us, His forgiveness of our sins and shortcomings, His death for us to live, and His sending to us the Holy Spirit?

Middle & High School Youth Groups Meet

The return of School Activities and the participation of our Youth on Wednesday Nights gets us back in the groove. We have relaxed and now we can look forward to witness the **Lord at work.**

The Youth have shared in evening meals, have been challenged by various topics, and have found the time for some entertainment as well. Life is not all fun and games, therefore, subjects for discussion have led to putting emphasis on certain aspects of life. The topics are not just passing fancies, but real life issues and dealing with relationships with others

It has been a long summer, at least since we had the sewer back up and the need to deal with the mold that added to our troubles.

Do you suppose that rather than being troubling, we could look at not being able to make use of the basement, we are presented with the opportunity to make the basement like new? One unforeseen benefit was in the installation of the new forced air system to heat the Sanctuary. Part of ceiling had to be torn up to install some of the ductwork. But, as we move in restoring the basement, covering up the duct work will be resolved, as well as repairing the walls and floor, updating the electrical and plumbing, etc. that has needed to be repaired for some time.

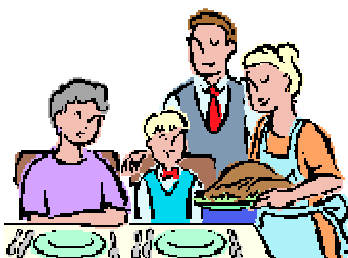
What a Church! What a Congregation! Sometimes it would seem to me that you have been willing to go **beyond the call to duty.** There have been those times when I could not function and fulfill my duties, and there you are, **Being the Church Victorious.** Surely you have proven to the Lord you are His servants, willing and able to follow His leading. I am so thankful that you have accepted us, sometimes filled in for us, and allowed us to spend time with our family at special times.

“One Man Show” A Great Success

The “One Man Show” with Mark Winter was one of inspiration with a skit (Sharri Kemp showed off her acting ability), and sermon. The church contributed some wonderful music as is the usual case, with Angie Mefford, Beth Dixon, Keely McCarty, and the church choir contributing. We thank Dawn Masten for all her work in putting together this program for all to enjoy.

Lord’s Hour Dinner and Sale

The annual Lord’s Hour Sale and Dinner will be held November 1st with serving to begin at 4:30 p.m. with the Auction to follow. All events will be held in the Fellowship Hall. The ladies of the church will once again have their bakery in the Entry Hall. Be sure and browse their wares and take home some delicious cookies, cakes, pies and other offerings.





Clarence UMC October Meeting

Board members met for their monthly meeting on October 15, 2008 at 7 p.m. Those attending were Terry Mefford, Susan McCarty, Ivan Carroll, DeEtte Carroll, Lee Schoonover, Amy Presson, Dawn Masten, Rev. Beryl Cragg and Lynda Proper.

Rev. Beryl opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was reviewed and several items were discussed. The report was then accepted. The yearly budget and actual incomes and expenses currently available through the third quarter are to be published in the upcoming weeks bulletin and also be included in the November newsletter, to inform the congregation of our financial condition for 2008. The amounts are following:

Financial Report			
For Year 2008 to Date : Third Quarter Report			
General Fund –		Building Fund –	
In- Budgeted:	\$67,272.00	In-Budgeted:	\$ 00.00
Actual:	\$74,559.00	Actual:	\$ 9,841.00
Out- Budgeted:	\$67,704.00	Out-Budgeted:	\$15,963.00
Actual:	\$63,085.00	Actual:	\$30,161.00

Also, the General Report to the Conference needs to be submitted. The Treasurer's Report was then accepted.

In the absence of Jeff Barry, Lee reported that the furnace is installed and ready for use. The flooding which occurred in the spring and caused mold and other damage has caused the basement to be left in an unusable state. The Servpro company of Hannibal, who did the demo work are not finished and have not returned at this time. Lee further reported that there seems to be a problem with our insurance regarding the basement project. Jeff has been having trouble keeping in contact with our insurance agent. It was suggested that Ed Knowles of Macon, MO be contacted as he is the agent for the Macon UMC, as well as other UM churches.

The proposed canopy for the east accessible parking lot has been designed. It is to be a shingled free-span roof with metal trusses. Cost is about \$17,000.00 with \$3,000.00 coming from the Harold Hutton memorial fund.

Next on the agenda is the Lay Leadership Report. This includes the Nominations Committee report, the Pastoral Support Report, and the PPR Committee Report. These committees met in preparation for the upcoming Charge Conference. These reports were accepted as presented.

The Lord's Hour Dinner and Auction were discussed. Dinner committee is: Terry and Angie Mefford, Dawn and David Masten, and Elaine and Mike Mueller. Serving begins at 4:30 with the Auction to start at 7 p.m. with Bill Mayes as auctioneer. All funds raised at this event will go to the Building Fund.

Dawn reported that the grant for the Audio/Visual project has been submitted. Also, the lamp on the projector has to be replaced at a cost of \$249.00. There was discussion about Jo Ota purchasing our half ownership of the projector and laptop. Terry reported he had talked to Mike Leonard about the purchase, but as yet has received to answer. Amy was instructed to send them a bill for one half the cost of the lamp.

Rev Beryl reported that he would be in Kansas City on Thursday for the birth of his third grandson, and also had a Dr.'s appointment there the following Monday. It was suggested that he take the entire weekend and not return for Sunday's services. DeEtte stated that it was Laity Sunday anyway, and encouraged Rev. Beryl to take the time off. He said he would decide later.

Kids After School was discussed, with no one volunteering to take on this program. Susan McCarty suggested we begin doing a children's story during Sunday Morning services. It was decided to do the stories on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Susan will begin the stories on Oct 26th. DeEtte will do the Christmas Story for the first Sunday of Lent.

Amy reported that the telephone in the office is not working. Further investigation showed that none of the phones in the old church building is working, perhaps a result of the flood. Lee is to contact the phone company for repairs as we have purchased inside line insurance from them.

Discussion on the Mark Winter "One Man Show" showed that it was a very satisfactory event, and the free will offering collected \$250.00.

Susan reported that the Crop Walk was held in Columbia, but the amount collected was unknown. She also reported that there are several light bulbs burnt out in the Sanctuary.

Safe Sanctuary training was also brought up. Dawn will check with Columbia about who is currently certified.

DeEtte suggested we not pass out newsletters until after church services. That change will be made.

Lee moved we adjourn.

Safe Sanctuary Training

Dawn Masten is leading a Safe Sanctuaries Certification training in the church on November 16th at 1:30 p.m. The class is 2 ½ - 3 hours long. The church will pay the \$20 certification fee. The Missouri United Methodist conference is attempting to get all children and youth volunteers safe sanctuaries certified in each of their churches. Not only is this training necessary to safe guard our children, youth and vulnerable adults, it is also beneficial to you and our church. If you wish to attend district or conference youth events, you have to be certified to chaperone youth on these events. Safe Sanctuaries certification is required for all Methodist Conference and District events, involving children and youth. Please contact Dawn if you are wishing to attend this training.



**Lydia Circle
&
UMW Meet**

Both Ladies groups met for their October meetings. Lydia met in the Church Kitchen on the 2nd and UMW met with Ida Hull in her home on the 9th. During their business parts of their meetings, they decided that they will have a Bakery for the Lord's Hour Sale with both groups supplying some of their specialties. The wares will include pies, cookies, candies, cakes, noodles, and other treats. The bakery will be open starting at 4 p.m. and continue until the Auction begins at 7 p.m.

Congratulations to the Cragg Family with the birth of Zander William Cragg on Oct 17th. He is the 3rd grandson of Rev. Beryl and Barbara Cragg.

Liturgy Sign-ups needed

We are asking for you to sign up for the Liturgy readings for the remainder of the year. November and December are both open for those who would like to take part in this Sunday morning scripture reading. Thank you to all who have been moved to swallow their fears and come forward for this part of our service.



Remember to set your clocks back before you go to bed on Nov 1st and after you get home from the Lord's Hour Auction!

Thanksgiving

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Give us this day our daily bread, O Father in heaven, and grant that we who are filled with good things from Your open hand, may never close our hearts to the hungry, the homeless, and the poor; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

- From the abbey of New Clairvaux, Viña, California