

The Wesley Message From Center Street

Clarence UMC Monthly Newsletter

September 2009

Volume I Issue IX



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Another month has come and gone in our time together. I just can't believe how fast the time has gone by. Our vacation this year was truly amazing. We drove almost four thousand miles and saw some of the most breathtaking scenery I have ever seen. But as a wise man once said about vacation, "It was nice to be gone, but it is great to be home."

It's that time of the church year that we need to start thinking about our plans for the future. I am looking forward to working with you to grow this church, not only in numbers attending, but growing in our love for the Lord. Over the next few months we need to ask ourselves this one question. "What can I do to grow the kingdom of God?"

Now that school has started our youth groups will start back up and I'm sure that help is needed. There is also an opportunity to help in the Wednesday after school program. If you feel God calling you to help with these programs let us know. The choirs are also going to be starting back up soon. There is another chance for you to help build His kingdom.

Until next time, In His service, Pastor Larry.

A Pastor with Guts!

We thought you might enjoy this interesting prayer given in Kansas at the opening session of their Senate. It seems prayer still upsets some people. When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

"Heavenly Father, we come before You today to ask

Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your word says "Woe to those who call evil good," but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We have exploited the poor and called it *the lottery*.

We have rewarded laziness and call it *welfare*.

We have killed our unborn and called it *choice*.

We have shot abortionists and called it *justifiable*.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it *building self esteem*.

We have abused power and called it *politics*.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it *ambition*.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it *freedom of expression*.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it *enlightenment*.

Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Amen!"

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa and Korea.

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, 'The Rest of the Story,' and received a larger response to this program than any other he has every aired.

With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again be called, 'One Nation Under God.'

Just remember, friends, 'If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything.'

Parsonage Gets A Fresh Face

With the welcoming of our new pastor, Larry DeSpain and his wife, Rebecca, also comes the need to spruce up the parsonage so that they can move to Clarence. It has been nearly 10 years ago that the Cragg's began serving us, so needless to say, fresh coat of paint on the walls and other repairs are being made. The Trustee Committee has Ok'd the necessary updates.

Ivan Carroll and John Wood have taken out the old wall heaters, cabinets, etc, and DeEtte Carroll, Lynda Proper and Ruth Wood have all been doing a general cleaning. Others helping with the house are Joann Wood, Marsha Collins, Amy Presson, Sharon Schoonover, LeRoy Proper, Terry Mefford, Jeff Barry, David Masten, Kerry McCarty, and E.W. Carroll. Mike Focht has been hired to do the carpentry work.

A much needed kitchen range and hood has been purchased along with new brighter ceiling lights for the kitchen. New kitchen cabinets will be installed on the west wall to match the existing ones on the east wall.

The Carpeting in the living-dining area needs replacing, so it is being taken up and the original hardwood floors are being left exposed. The family room floor, which was originally part of the garage, will have a vinyl floor instead of carpeting.

The main bathroom will have a new tub surround and new vinyl floor.

The outside of the house will get a wash job, and DeeAnn

Jeff Barry presented the Trustee's Report. Discussed were the tuck pointing of the church building which needs to be completed, basement leaks, and the parsonage remodel. Ruth, DeEtte and Lynda presented plans which included power washing the outside, cleaning and painting the inside, remodeling part of the kitchen and the main bathroom, and new flooring where needed. Also needed are a new kitchen range and hood. It was suggested that the main bathroom be entirely reworked, which will be done. The plans as presented were approved. Much volunteer work has already be done by church members, and it is planned that an open house be held on September 20th following church services for all who would like to tour the house prior to Pastor Larry and Rebecca moving in. Pastor Larry stated that they would like to have an open house for the congregation after they get settled in, also.

Youth Group for the older kids will be led again this fall by Kim Thompson and Kim Boling. They are making plans for their programs. There is a Youth Rally on September 12 & 13 at Camp JoOta, also. No one has volunteered to lead the "After School" elementary age kids at this time, although several have volunteered to assist.

Dawn stated that we have not heard anything as yet about our grant request for the additional audio/visual equipment for the sanctuary.

Barbara reported that she had ordered pencils with the Centennial logo. Florence Schoonover and Jim Watson are busy editing Barbara's many pages of history to prepare it for publication. DeEtte stated that Mary Dunaway will do the directory with sittings to be set up with families starting in September. Those who need special sitting times need to contact Mary who will do those sittings at her studio in Shelbina. Otherwise, the committee will set up a date and time for the sittings to be done at the church. The Bishop will not put obligations on his calendar until September, so it is unknown if he will be able to attend our celebration.

Terry reported that there were 23 campers from our church this summer at JoOta. The men's and women's groups support financially these children attending church camp in the amount of nearly \$5,000. As a result, the men are planning another fund raiser to help offset the cost. Announcements will come later when their plans are firmer.

Barbara Blaine reported about the Parish Nursing mission she is involved in, and also about the Walk to Bethlehem.

DeEtte thanked the many who help with weekly or special efforts for the church including Reese Blaine for securing the church building before and after services each week, and the Thompson family for their outstanding efforts in putting together the Centennial Cookbook. She also related that perhaps Frank Mason could present his video of a trip he made many years ago for the very first Heifer Project to Europe. She is in hopes that we could have a showing for everyone to enjoy.

Dan Bollow has sent word that their Shelbina minister prefers that they do their study "Questions of Life" independently, so we will not be included. Dan did say that they would gladly share the literature with us once they finish the study.

Dawn reported that we have had several hits to our web site. She also stated that Adult Church Choir practice will resume September 9th. She also stated the the Lord's Hour Dinner and Auction will be Saturday, November 7th with serving to start at 4:30. This year it will also include a health screening and entertainment. She stated that she wants to have the bulletin information before Saturday so that she can prepare the power point for Sunday. Pastor Larry said he would get it to her earlier in the week.

Kim Thompson is holding her "Scrap booking for Autism" on September 19th from 9 a.m. to 10 p m with meals, etc.

Jeff reported that Mike Leonard, manager of JoOta, has requested the use of the fellowship hall, if necessary, for any overflow of the 95 campers for the Youth Rally. This would be for one night, free of charge as all funds raised are going to the Dining Hall fund. A motion was made and approved for them to use the hall as needed.

Pastor Larry reported that Monday a charge conference workshop for leaders will be held. He stated that the PPR Committee needs to meet and fill out the evaluations. He also would like a regular insert for Sunday Bulletins which would include scripture. He then asked everyone to keep their positions in the church as he gets familiar with church procedure, etc.

Reese closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned.

September, a Month of Beauty

We all enjoy the colors of autumn leaves. Did you ever wonder how and why a fall leaf changes color? As summer ends and autumn comes, the days get shorter and shorter. This is how the trees "know" to begin getting ready for winter.

During winter, there is not enough light or water for photosynthesis. The trees will rest, and live off the food they stored during the summer. They begin to shut down their food-making factories. The green chlorophyll disappears from the leaves. As the bright green fades away, we begin to see yellow and orange colors. Small amounts of these colors have been in the leaves all along. We just can't see them in the summer, because they are covered up by the green chlorophyll.

The bright reds and purples we see in leaves are made mostly in the fall. In some trees, like maples, glucose is trapped in the leaves after photosynthesis stops. Sunlight and the cool nights of autumn cause the leaves turn this glucose into a red color. The brown color of trees like oaks is made from wastes left in the leaves.

It is the combination of all these things that make the beautiful colors we enjoy in the fall.

Foreman will clean the flower beds.

Hopefully, we can schedule an open house soon so all can see the improvements.

Thank You!

A Special "Thanks" to our church family for the many prayers, memorials and other acts of kindnesses extended to us in the loss of our loved one. An especial "Thanks" to the ladies for the delicious funeral dinner. All this loving support was appreciated.

The Family of Herb Williams.

Thank You!

I thank the many individuals in our church who contributed to the Food 4 Kids program. Donations of money or bread were made by DeEtte Carroll, Sharri Kemp, Linda Barr, Glenna Beth and Danny Walker, Florence Schoonover, Dee Dee Daniel, Ida Hull, and Hilary Lemon. Workers included: Linda Barr, Keely McCarty, Charolette Barr, Sharon Schoonover, Julia Barry, Glenna Beth Walker, Larry and Becky DeSpain, Marsha Collins and Max. Helping with picking up food supplies from the Central MO Food Bank were Julia and Jake Barry and Jaime Farmer. The program served an average of 41 children a day. They were waiting each day as we opened up. The meal we provided was breakfast and lunch for many children. Thanks for making it possible to reach these hungry children. Susan McCarty

Scrap-bookers!

It is time for the Autism Crop again! The details are to follow! Be sure to RSVP!

Where: Clarence United Methodist Church Multi Purpose Building

When: September 19, 2009

Time: 9 AM to 10 PM (come and go as you please!)

Cost: \$30 per person - this includes lunch and supper, tea, water and lemonade, at least 3 make and take classes, large tables with ample room to crop. Games and Prizes all day & night!

This year we are doing a recipe swap also! Bring 15 scrap-booked recipe cards to swap with others! Recipe cards should be 6"x6". Any questions let me know! This will take place in the afternoon so you can finish them while you are there!

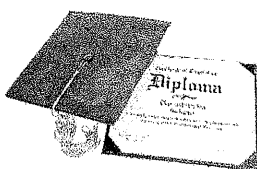
This is our 5th Autism Crop! All of the proceeds for the day go to Autism Speaks. No money is taken out for the food, advertising or prizes.

There will be vendors available this year, including Creative Memories, Stampin' Up, Close to my Heart and The Scrappin' Shack from Centralia!

RSVP by March 23, 2009 to Kim Thompson at 660-651-4051 or 660-699-3610 or email me at skt92@centurytel.net. Or RSVP to Jeanna Rutter at 573-588-2241.

Look forward to hearing from you soon! Thanks!

Team Garrett,
Racing to Cure Autism



Spring Graduates Make Next Move to College Life

With the summer winding down and school children getting in the routine of buses, classes and lessons, our recent graduates, too, are beginning their exciting college experience. Several of these students applied for and received scholarships from us to help defray some expenses. Evan Carroll is attending MUS&T @Rolla; Katti Carroll & Keeley McCarty are enrolled at NW Mo State in Maryville; Tyler Schuster & Mason Wood are attending

MU @ Columbia; Dahn Kemp & David Schoonover are going to Truman @ Kirksville, and Christie Brown is attending MACC at their Columbia campus. Our foreign exchange student, Marie Engessor, has returned to her home in Germany to continue her education.

CLARENCE UMC BOARD MEETING

Members of the Clarence UMC board meet for the regular monthly meeting on August 19th at 7 p.m. with members Jeff Barry, Terry Mefford, Barbara Blaine, Reece Blaine, Lynda Proper, DeEtte Carroll, Ruth Wood, Barbara Chittum, Susan McCarty, Dawn Masten, and Pastor Larry present.

Terry welcomed all and reported that we had only minor water in the basement from the recent 6" of rain, and only in the few recurrent places we are aware of. Pastor Larry then opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the July meeting were read with the correction being that the 1/12th salary reference was referring to the payment being made to Pastor Larry to cover household expenses at his Macon residence until we have the parsonage in Clarence ready for him. A discussion followed about the Food 4 Kids project and it was suggested that perhaps we could do a "hand-out" next year. No action was taken at this time. The minutes were then accepted as read.

Amy passed out the Treasurer's report which was reviewed and discussed. Jeff reported that we had received the final payment for the basement flooding from the insurance company in the amount of \$32,444.00 Amy will replenish the funds with part of this payment to the funds we had borrowed from in order to complete the repairs. It was discussed as to the possibility of combining the two telephone numbers in the church. The telephone company will be contacted by Lynda to see if this can be done. The "Pastoral Support" portion of pastor's salary was discussed. This fund is for expenses incurred for travel and other business expenses. A motion was made and the treasurer's report was approved.

Clarence United Methodist Church
301 S. Center Street
P.O. Box 128
Clarence, MO 63437

Choir Practice will begin Wednesday, September 9th
at 6:30 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars!! The Lord's Hour Dinner, Sale
& Entertainment will be held Saturday, November 7th
in the Fellowship Hall.

September
Anniversaries & Birthdays

1. Dean Carroll
2. Jerry & Kim Boling, Anniv
5. Ioyla Hopper
13. Ryan & Amy Presson, Anniv.
15. Walt & Trudy McManus, Anniv.
16. Dean & Cathy Carroll, Anniv.
17. Margaret Hutton
Bob McCarty
19. Pat & Susan Bentley, Anniv.
20. Jeff & Allison Barry, Anniv.
Loren Lane Kemp
23. De Ette Carroll
Charlotte Barr
LaVerle & Charlotte Barr, Anniv.
David Hoffman
24. Marge Williams
26. Mylan Hutcherson
Beth Dixon
27. Kerry McCarty
Trevor Collins
Jerry & Donna Barton, Anniv.
Tara & Matt Mefford, Anniv.
28. Garrett Malone Thompson
Bailey Miranda Schoonover
29. Angela Quinley Bailey
David Barr
30. Angie & Brian Bailey, Anniv