

The Wesley Message From Center Street

Clarence UMC Monthly Newsletter

August, 2009

Volume I Issue VIII

Rev's Ramble

Wow! At the time I am writing this Rebecca and I have been with you for almost a month. Time truly does fly when you are having fun. Being here as your pastor has been one of the most joy filled times of our lives. I have been asked by several members of our church family to tell a little about my family.

Most of you have met my wife, Rebecca. She begins a new job this year as the director of special education at Macon County R-4 Schools in New Cambria. She has been a teacher for almost twenty years. When she isn't teaching she enjoys reading, playing bridge, plays and musicals, and high school sports.

Our oldest son, Ryan, lives in Kansas City, MO and works for a medical firm. He is a 1991 graduate of Macon and a graduate of Southwest Missouri State University with a degree in business. He loves football, baseball, and basketball. He is a huge Pittsburgh Steelers fan (don't ask me how that happened), Boston Red Sox, (again I have no clue How), and a MU fan (finally something we can agree on!)

Hilary is our only daughter and she and her husband, David, live in Kansas City with our granddaughter, Avery Claire. Hilary is also a graduate of Macon and received her degree from the University of Missouri. She has worked for Sprint/Embark since she graduated from college. Her husband, David, is also a graduate of M.U. with a degree in engineering.

Trent is the next on the age chain. He also graduated from Macon, and received his degree from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, with a degree in education. He and his wife Laura live in Flower Mound, Texas with their three children, Grace, Hudson, and Noel. Trent is a site overseer for a large commercial construction company in Dallas. Laura is a stay at home mom. My guess is that with three little ones, she works harder than Trent.

Erik is our next son. He also graduated from Macon and M.U. with a degree in education. He is currently the Social Studies teacher at Macon County R-4 in New Cambria. Along with teaching he is also the head Girls basketball coach, both jr. and sr. high, boys and girls track coach, and academic bowl coach. He also travels quite a bit. In the past several years he has been to Greece, Italy, Egypt, Turkey, Mexico, Jamaica, Brazil, and next year plans to go to India. In his free time he likes to play basketball, and golf.

Last but not least is Alex. Alex is also a graduate of Macon. This past May he graduated from Truman State University with a degree in exercise science and will receive his master's degree next May in education from Truman State. He is a member of the Truman State track team and this past May competed in the Division II national outdoor track meet. He is working this summer at the Kirksville YMCA as a counselor with their summer youth program. So there it is, a thumbnail sketch of my family. We are all looking forward to worshipping with you. In my short time here I have been blessed by all the people who have welcomed us. In Judges 19:20 it says, "You are welcome in my house," the old man said. "Let me supply whatever you need. Only don't spend the night in the square."

I feel so welcome in this house! I just want to thank you all for the warm and loving reception we have received. With God's love and his guidance we, together, can continue the work that has been started here in this wonderful church. See you Sunday!

Pastor Larry

Centennial Cookbooks

The Clarence UMC Centennial Cookbooks are here and make wonderful birthday & Christmas gifts. This hardback, spiral bound book features 300 recipes. Priced at \$15 for 1 and \$25 for 2 from our great cooks, we hope you'll enjoy the many excellent recipes shared by our congregation. Be sure to check out the Heritage Specialties chapter. See Willie, Kim, Shana or Jeanna to purchase your cookbook.



Internet Access Now Available

We have now officially entered the communication age! As of Wednesday, July 22, the church office is now connected to the internet. It will make this editor/ secretary's job much easier, and anyone needing to get in contact with the church office, the treasurer, the secretary or Pastor Larry can do so at any time of the day or night by sending an email. The office email address is: clarenceumc@marktwain.net and Pastor Larry's private email address is: pastorlarry@marktwain.net.

We have also installed a phone answering system, so those who do not use computers can leave messages by calling the office at 660-699-3475. Also Pastor Larry can be reached at any time on his cell phone at 660-349-8175. Information for the bulletin can still be sent to Lynda Proper by email lproper@marktwain.net or by calling her cell at 660-676-8961.

CLARENCE UMC BOARD MEETING

The UMC Board met for their monthly meeting on July 1, 2009. The purpose for this date change from the regular third Wednesday was to get acquainted with our new pastor, Larry DeSpain, prior to his taking the pulpit for the first time, on July 5th. Those attending the meeting were Reese Blaine, Jeff Barry, Amy Presson, Dawn Masten, David Masten, Terry Mefford, Pastor Larry DeSpain, Susan McCarty, Kerry McCarty, Barbara Chittum, Ruth Wood, DeEtte Carroll, Ivan Carroll, and Lynda Proper.

Terry welcomed everyone for coming, and then he read from Numbers 11, about things always changing and our need to adapt, and then he read I Samuel 1:2, reminding us that God is a constant, and his laws never change.

Terry then asked those present to introduce themselves and their responsibilities in the church. Our new pastor then asked that he be called wither Pastor Larry, r Pastor D. He prefers Pastor Larry.

Minutes of the June meeting were read and approved. Amy presented the treasurer's report which was reviewed. Noted was the improvement in the cost of utilities, those being reduced in June by nearly half. Discussion was held and then the report was accepted. Amy reported that she now has a key to the Post Office box rented by the church, and that it will now only be used by the church. Formerly the pastor used it also. Pastor Larry requested that he be paid 1/12 of his salary monthly.

Jeff reported for the Trustees that he had again been in contact with the insurance company regarding our final settlement for the basement flooding of July of 2008. He indicated that we should be receiving about \$38,500.00 in the near future, in addition to the \$28,000.00 already received. The insurance company wants to cut only one check to cover payment for the baseboard heaters, supplies, and the remaining repair costs, caused by the flood. Jeff noted that the continuing problems with the basement leaking will be addressed this summer. Also the tuck-pointing on more of the brickwork need to be done, but we are waiting until funds are available before doing any more work on the building. It was pointed out that with the removal of the old heating system; the sanctuary carpet has holes where the radiators were sitting. Ruth stated that the PPR committee will need help in freshening up the parsonage after Rev. Beryl and Barbara Cragg move in July. Pastor Larry remarked that there is no hurry and for them to take their time as he has living accommodations. He further stated that if there are hardwood floors he would like to leave them and not cover them with new carpeting. Ruth said that the main job would be painting, which needs to be done. A walk-through will be done after the Cragg's move to access exactly what needs to be done.

Terry reported that the Ice Cream Supper at the Homecoming raised \$789.17. The ice cream bill remains to be paid at D&B Grocery.

DeEtte asked that perhaps French doors be installed in the opening between the two large rooms in the basement in order to help with noise control. Her class meets in the large open room in the south east corner of the basement. When the children have their music, it is hard to conduct class. Her class will probably buy a large area rug for the room, which hopefully, will help with noise control. DeEtte and others had set up tables in the connector with old church items which were no longer used. She turned over the donation funds that had been received from church members for the items they wanted. Remaining items were donated to the "Right to Life" organization in Shelbina. Susan had spoken to Mary Wood about refinishing the old oak desk and chair formerly used by the Sunday school superintendent. It was decided not to do it at this time.

The men's group is sponsoring the Annual Fish Fry August 8th with serving to begin at 4:30.

Men's Fish Fry

The Men of the church have been busy making plans for their Annual Fish Fry. It will be August 8th the second Saturday of the month. Additional dishes will be slaw and corn bread along with lots of desserts. Serving will begin at 4:30 and continue until all are served. Carry-outs will also be provided.

Rev. Beryl's Retirement

Rev. Beryl & Barbara Cragg moved from the Clarence UMC parsonage to their new home east of Kirksville the weekend of July 18th -19th. Their new address is: 2602 Dawnview Kirksville, MO 63501. They will share their new home with daughter Cheryl Cragg. We wish them well in their retirement.



Boy! Can you tell the days are getting shorter again? It seems like school was just let out in the spring and yet here we are with it starting up again this month. The fall sports teams are already gearing up their weight training and holding camps. It won't be long until we hear the early morning rumble of that big yellow monster coming to gobble up the kids and take them for the day only to spit them back out again at home in the late afternoon.

*"Wheatstacks, End of Summer"
by Claude Monet*

Jeff and Terry had each received a letter from the Shelbina UMC requesting funds to help with their "Back to School with Pride" mission. Their goal is to provide a backpack with school supplies, shoes, socks, haircuts, etc for each child K-6 grades in Shelby County. That mission is already funded, but they now want to fund grades 7-12. The board moved to send them \$150.00 to help their fund.

Susan reported that beginning July 6th the "Food 4 Kids" program will begin in Clarence. All Clarence churches, the Christian, the Baptist, the Catholic and the Nazarene will join with the UMC in serving the noon time lunches Monday-Friday 11:15-12:15, from the Civic Club eat-stand in the south park. Each church will serve one week and then one additional day on the last week before school starts.

Barbara Chittum distributed "scratch" pads with the Centennial logo on them. The Clarence Courier printed them. She is also trying again to purchase pencils with the logo denoting the Centennial.

Reese volunteered to open the church on Sundays, and to make sure it gets locked up after services. He was given keys to both buildings to do this.

It was decided to keep renting the Veolia dumpster for the time being until the parsonage remodel is completed.

Dawn has been working on the Web site. David reported about the additional audio/visual equipment needed. Dawn will write a grant request from the District for help in funding. It was voted she do this, but without a grant it is not feasible at this time. Dawn stated that our cost would not exceed 20% of the total cost. Discussion followed about moving the one very small pew to the back of the church and the possible relocation of the long pew which was moved to make room for the audio/visual equipment already in place.

Pastor Larry then made remarks of his expectations. He will do the entire Sunday morning service himself, without congregational liturgists as has been done recently. He will have a children's sermon each Sunday, except once monthly, when someone else can present the children's sermon. The 1st Sunday will remain Communion Sunday. He wants to have two assigned communion servers, and the "clean-up" child assignment will remain the responsibility of the ushers. He wants a copy of the church directory, and a copy of the charge conference assignments. He encouraged the continuance of the Youth Groups, VBS, and the After School Kids programs. He needs an office in the church, with an internet hook-up. The internet carrier was discussed, with Lynda being assigned to contact both Century-Tel and Mark Twain.net for costs, etc. Larry wants robes, both black and white ones, for special services such as Weddings, Funerals, Easter, and Christmas. He plans to do a Christmas Eve candlelight service to last about one hour from 5 to 6 p.m. He will do a sermon series for both the Advent and Lenten seasons. He uses the NRSV version of the Bible. He is not ordained and does not plan to be. He can do the sacraments in the Clarence and Bethlehem churches the surrounding areas only.

Ruth then asked if and when we are planning to have a reception for Pastor Larry. The board voted to have a carry-in dinner following services on July 19th. Monroe Chapel and Bethlehem are both to be invited. Larry will ask the Bethlehem congregation and Terry will tell Donna Barton, Lay Minister of the Monroe Chapel, and have her invite her congregation.

Pastor Larry closed the meeting with prayer.

*The little songs of summer are all gone today. The little insect instruments are all packed away:
The bumblebee's snare drum, the grasshopper's guitar, the katydid's banjo, the cricket's violin,
The dragonfly's cello have ceased their merry din. Oh, where is the orchestra? From harpist down to drummer
They've all disappeared with the passing of the summer. ~ by Rowena Bennett*

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

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| 1. Trae Ivan Carroll | 17. Elizabeth Barr |
| 2. Jessica Farmer | Camra Hutcherson |
| 4. Lee & Sharon Schoonover Anniv. | 18. Weston Max Mefford |
| 6. William Rex Mefford | Logan Wood |
| Willie Sam Thompson | 19. Eddie Clem |
| 7. Sydney Tace Baird | Viola Morton |
| 8. Frank Mason | 20. Warren & Charlotte Pflum Anniv. |
| Nadine Thurman | 21. Pat Bentley |
| 9. Tyler Lee Foster | 22. Eula Mae Walker |
| 11. David Schoonover | 23. James Watson |
| 12. Eric Barr | 26. Matt Mefford |
| 14. Erin Kate Threlkeld | 30. Susan Bentley |
| 15. Cathy Carroll | 31. Dee Ann Foreman |
| Taylor David Foster | |
| Tanner Charles Foster | |

