

# The Wesley Message From Center Street

Clarence UMC Monthly Newsletter

December 2009

Volume I Issue XII



## Clarence UMC Board Meeting

Members of the United Methodist Board met on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 a change from the regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday meeting date. Attending were Rick Kemp, Ruth Wood, Dawn Masten, Barbara Chittum, Pastor Larry, Jeff Barry, Susan McCarty, Terry Mefford, Reese Blaine, Barbara Blaine, Lee Schoonover and Lynda Proper.

Terry thanked all who were able to attend this change in meeting dates and Pastor Larry opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from the September meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was reviewed, noting that giving was short for the year compared to the projected budget. It was stated that the phone service in the Fellowship Hall has been disconnected which will be reflected in next months billing, with a savings of \$37.51 monthly. The available phones are in the basement, the office and the elevator. The report was accepted as presented.

Jeff reported for the Trustees. He had spoken with Mike Focht, and stated that needed repairs in the north sanctuary wall will be started after Christmas. Jeff also reported that the tuck-pointing has been delayed because of the excessive rain this fall, but that work will continue when weather permits.

It is noted that Sharon Schoonover has offered to teach the High School girls Sunday school class and has been doing so for several weeks. Her offer has been accepted.

Barbara Chittum informed the board of her continuing work towards the Centennial Celebration planned for February 14, 2010. The Bishop is unable to come. But

attending are special guests, including the Assistant Bishop, Rev. Dick Curry, the District Superintendent, Rev. Bill Koch, and former minister, Rev. Beryl Cragg. No answers have been received from the other ministers invited. The Worship Committee in charge for the Celebration is Florence Schoonover, Colleen Reid, Dawn Masten, Angie Mefford, and Julia Barry. Barbara stated that letters need to be written to those who will take part in the service. Pastor Larry will write those letters. The day will include a special Rededication Service of the church building at the morning worship, a carry-in dinner, and an afternoon program. Barbara presented specially printed pencils with the Centennial message, and the Cross and Flame symbol, which she distributed. These are her donation to the project. The church directory picture taking went smoothly with most of the congregation taking part. Those who were not able to make this date are asked to contact Mary Dunaway and set up their own times and dates which needs to be done before Thanksgiving.

Dawn informed the board of plans for the Lord's Hour Sale and Dinner on November 7. It will be a soup supper with the addition of a health fair, and entertainment of a singer, with the auction to follow. The UMW will have their Bakery again this year.

Dawn also reported that the audio equipment will arrive November 6<sup>th</sup> and David will do the install. A fund raiser of some sort will be needed to be able to purchase the final TV monitor, which will complete our obligation of the grant request. Advent season will begin the last Sunday in November, the 29<sup>th</sup>. No one has been assigned to chair this event.

Lee reported that a community wide

Men's Breakfast has been planned. Pastor Larry stated that it is to be Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 a.m. and will be at the Clarence Christian Church. Hopefully, this will be a quarterly event.

It was reported that the new Barrow Hall is in need of \$30,000 by May in order to qualify for the \$85,000 grant which is pending dependent on our ability to raise the \$30,000. The funds are needed immediately in order to keep the carpenters working on the Hall, instead of them leave, possibly by the end of the month. It is feared that it might cause a completion delay if we cannot get them to remain at the Jo Ota work site. It was also noted that the Brookfield church is interested in helping with this project, but that they were unaware of Jo Ota itself or the building project.

Rick reported that the PPR Committee had met and presented their recommendations for the 2010 support package. The pastoral support showed a 3% increase in salary. The board approved the package. Pastor Larry stated that his days off are Friday and Saturday. He is to contact Lynda (church secretary) if he is going to be unavailable at any time for any reason. Also, at the urging of the PPR, the telephone service in the parsonage which had been disconnected has been reinstalled.

Lynda requested that the Board change their regular meeting date due to the treasurer not being available on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month. The meetings will now be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Ruth read a letter from Judy Schultz about her time spent in Clarence a number of years ago as Ron's wife. Judy sent a wooden replica of our church she had made which will be placed in the display cabinet

in the entry hall, and she also, sent \$10.00 donation towards the basement remodel. Ruth says she will invite them to the celebration and also will write to Ron to personally invite him to come, too.

Dawn stated that she will be holding Safe Sanctuary training in Macon on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Larry read several letters he had received. This first was about the Angel Tree project. They are seeking funds. Lee moved we donate \$100.00, which was approved. A letter was read about a meeting being held to inform citizens about the upcoming 2010 Census. The final letter was from Mary Wilt who was informed us that there is a trip available June 19-23 to Washington for 3 youths and 1 adult. Anyone wanting to take part in this trip should contact Mary. Larry also gave Lee a finance form to be filled out and submitted to the district.

Rick closed the meeting with prayer.

\*\*\*\*

### Christmas At the Gas Station

The old man sat in his gas station on a cold Christmas Eve. He hadn't been anywhere in years since his wife had passed away. It was just another day to him. He didn't hate Christmas, just couldn't find a reason to celebrate. He was sitting there looking at the snow that had been falling for the last hour and wondering what it was all about when the door opened and a homeless man stepped through.

Instead of throwing the man out, Old George as he was known by his customers, told the man to come and sit by the heater and warm up.

"Thank you, but I don't mean to intrude," said the stranger.

"I see you're busy, I'll just go." "Not without something hot in your belly," George said.

He turned and opened a wide mouth Thermos and handed it to the stranger.

"It ain't much, but it's hot and tasty "Stew" made it myself. When you're done, there's coffee and it's fresh."

Just at that moment he heard the "ding" of the driveway bell. "Excuse me, be right back,"

George said. There in the driveway was an old '53 Chevy. Steam was rolling out of the front. The driver was panicked.

"Mister can you help me!" said the driver, with a deep Spanish accent.

"My wife is with child and my car is broken."

George opened the hood. It was bad. The block looked cracked from the cold, the car was dead. "You ain't going in this thing," George said as he turned away.

"But Mister, please help." The door of the office closed behind George as he went inside. He went to the office wall and got the keys to his old truck, and went back outside. He walked around the building, opened the garage, started the truck and drove it around to where the couple was waiting.

"Here, take my truck," he said. "She ain't the best thing you ever looked at, but she runs real good."

George helped put the woman in the truck and watched as it sped off into the night. He turned and walked back inside the office. "Glad I gave 'em the truck, their tires were shot too. That 'ol truck has brand new ....." George thought he was talking to the stranger, but the man had gone. The Thermos was on the desk, empty, with a used coffee cup beside it. "Well, at least he got something in his belly," George thought.

George went back outside to see if the old Chevy would start. It cranked slowly, but it started. He pulled it into the garage where the truck had been. He thought he would tinker with it for something to do. Christmas Eve meant no customers. He discovered the the block hadn't cracked; it was just the bottom hose on the radiator. "Well, shoot, I can fix this," he said to himself. So he put a new one on.

"Those tires ain't gonna get 'em through the winter either." He took the snow treads off of his wife's old Lincoln. They were like new and he wasn't going to drive the car anyway.

As he was working, he heard shots being fired. He ran outside and beside a police car an officer lay on the cold ground, bleeding from the left shoulder. The officer moaned, "Please

help me."

George helped the officer inside as he remembered the training he had received in the Army as a medic. He knew the wound needed attention.

"Pressure to stop the bleeding," he thought. The uniform company had been there that morning and had left clean shop towels. He used those and duct tape to bind the wound. "Hey, they say duct tape can fix anythin'," he said, trying to make the policeman feel at ease.

"Something for pain," George thought. All he had was the pills he used for his back. "These ought to work." He put some water in a cup and gave the policeman the pills. "You hang in there, I'm going to get you an ambulance."

The phone was dead. "Maybe I can get one of your buddies on that there talk box out in your car." He went out only to find that a bullet had gone into the dashboard destroying the two way radio.

He went back in to find the policeman sitting up. "Thanks," said the officer. "You could have left me there. The guy that shot me is still in the area."

George sat down beside him, "I would never leave an injured man in the Army and I ain't gonna leave you." George pulled back the bandage to check for bleeding. "Looks worse than what it is. Bullet passed right through 'ya. Good thing it missed the important stuff though. I think with time you're gonna be right as rain."

George got up and poured a cup of coffee. "How do you take it?" he asked. "None for me," said the officer. "Oh, yer gonna drink this, best in the city. Too bad I ain't got no donuts." The officer laughed and winced at the same time.

The front door of the office flew open. In burst a young man with a gun.

"Give me all your cash! Do it now!" the young man yelled.

His hand was shaking and George could tell that he had never done anything like this before.

"That's the guy that shot me!" exclaimed the officer.

"Son, why are you doing this?" asked George, "You need to put the cannon away. Somebody

else might get hurt."

The young man was confused. "Shut up old man, or I'll shoot you, too. Now give me the cash!"

The cop was reaching for his gun. "Put that thing away," George said to the cop, "we got one too many in here now."

He turned his attention to the young man. "Son, it's Christmas Eve. If you need money, well then, here. It ain't much but it's all I got. Now put that pee shooter away."

George pulled \$150 out of his pocket and handed it to the young man, reaching for the barrel of the gun at the same time. The young man released his grip on the gun, fell to his knees and began to cry. "I'm not very good at this am I? All I wanted was to buy something for my wife and son," he went on. "I've lost my job, my rent is due, and my car got repossess-ed last week." George handed the gun to the cop. Son, we all get in a bit of squeeze now and then. The road gets hard sometimes, but we make it through the best we can."

He got the young man to his feet, and sat him down on a chair across from the cop. "Sometimes we do stupid things." George handed the young man a cup of coffee. "Bein' stupid is one of the things that makes us human. Comin' in here with a gun ain't the answer. Now sit there and get warm and we'll sort this thing out." The young man had stopped crying. He looked over to the cop "Sorry I shot you. It just went off. I'm sorry officer."

"Shut up and drink your coffee." the cop said.

George could hear the sounds of sirens outside. A police car and an ambulance skidded to a halt. Two cops came through the door, guns drawn.

"Chuck! You ok?" one of the cops asked the wounded officer.

"Not bad for a guy who took a bullet. How did you find me?"

"GPS locator in the car, best thing since sliced bread. Who did this?" the other cop asked as he approached the young man.

Chuck answered him, "I don't know. The guy ran off into the dark. Just dropped his gun and ran."

George and the young

man both looked puzzled at each other.

"That guy work here?" the wounded cop continued. "Yep," George said, "just hired him this morning. Boy lost his job."

The paramedics came in and loaded Chuck onto the stretcher.

The young man leaned over the wounded cop and whispered, "Why?"

Chuck just said, "Merry Christmas boy and you too, George, and thanks for everything."

"Well, looks like you got one doozy of a break there. That ought to solve some of your problems."

George went into the back room and came out with a box. He pulled out a ring box. "Here you are. Go, something for the little woman. I don't think Martha would mind. She said it would come in handy some day."

The young man looked inside to see the biggest diamond ring he ever saw.

"I can't take this," said the young man. "It means something to you."

"And now it means something to you," replied George. "I got my memories. That's all I need."

George reached into the box again. An airplane, a car and a truck appeared next. They were toys that the oil company had left for him to sell. "Here's something for that little man of yours."

The young man began to cry again as he handed back the \$150 that the old man had handed him earlier.

"And what are you supposed to buy Christmas dinner with? You keep that too," George said, "Now git home to your family."

The young man turned with tears streaming down his face. "I'll be here in the morning for work, if that job offer is still good."

"Nope, I'm closed Christmas day," George said. "See ya the day after."

George turned around to find that the stranger had returned. "Where'd you come from? I thought you left?"

"I have been here. I have always been here," said the stranger. "You say you don't celebrate Christmas. Why?"

"Well, after my wife

passed away, I just couldn't see what all the bother was. Puttin' up a tree and all seemed a waste of a good pine tree. Bakin' cookies like I used to with Martha just wasn't the same by myself and besides I was gettin' a little chubby."

The stranger put his hand on George's shoulder. "But you do celebrate the holiday, George. You gave me food and drink and warmed me when I was cold and hungry. The woman with child will bear a son and he will become a great doctor. The policeman you helped will go on to save 19 people from being killed by terrorists. The young man who tried to rob you will make you a rich man and not take any for himself. That is the spirit of the season and you keep it as good as any man."

George was taken aback by all this stranger had said. "And how do you know all this?" asked the old man.

"Trust me, George. I have the inside track on this sort of thing. And when your days are done you will be with Martha again."

The stranger moved toward the door. "If you will excuse me George, I have to go now. I have to go home where there is a big celebration planned."

George watched as the old leather jacket and the torn pants that the stranger was wearing turned into a white robe. A golden light began to fill the room.

"You see, George ... it's My birthday, Merry Christmas."

George fell to his knees and replied, "Happy Birthday, Lord." ~ author unknown ~

### UMW Meets

The Clarence UMW met on November 5, 2009 in the church undercroft. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Martha Mason. The minutes of our last meeting were read and approved. Our treasurer's report was presented and accepted.

President Lynda, reported that we need to select a recipient to receive our annual pin, a woman who has given her talent and her time working for the church. Colleen moved that our selected women be approved, Ida seconded, motion carried.

We discussed our bake sale to be held at the Lord's Hour

Auction. Florence will come at 4:00 with Lynda to get things started. Marge volunteered to come at 5:00, and then Florence and Lynda will close up.

Mildred has received a notice from the Methodist Student House in Kirksville asking for a donation for their Campus Ministries program. After a discussion, Viola made the motion that we donate \$50.00 quarterly beginning in January 2010. It was noted that David Schoonover has joined this group as he is attending Truman this year. Colleen seconded. Motion carried. Their address is: Flame Ministries, 903

S. Davis St. Kirksville, MO 63501.

Several ideas for our Christmas dinner were discussed, and we mutually agreed to go back to our traditional plan of having treats brought by the members with the program consisting of Christmas stories, poems, etc. on our regular meeting date, December 3, at 2:00.

New officers taking over in 2010 are: Mildred Hirrlinger, President; Martha Mason, Vice President; Florence Schoonover, Secretary, and DeEtte Carroll, Treasurer.

Lynda closed the business portion of the meeting with the story of the Bagpiper, and reading our Creed.

Martha Mason gave a very interesting program on hunger in the world, "Bread for the World." She told of the experiences of her son, Steve Mason, who went to Haiti to minister to those people in need. Martha and Frank visited Steve while he was there. It was very moving and inspired us to want to do something to feed the world, a very ambitious desire, but a very pressing need.

We closed the meeting with our friendship circle and prayer and enjoyed our time of fellowship.

\*\*\*\*

United Methodist Church  
301 South Center Street  
Clarence, Missouri 63437



### December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 6. Avery Isabel Bailey
- 8. Cindy Sickal
- 9. Jon McCarty  
Charles Foreman
- 12. Mark & Cindy Sickal, Anniv.
- 15. Alexis Marie Quinley
- 19. Darin Boling
- 20. Beverly (Wood) Burns  
Jared Bentley
- 19. Glenna Beth Walker
- 22. Becky DeSpain
- 26. Jennifer (Hopper) Baird  
Ida Hull

- 27. Brian Threlkeld  
Rick Kemp
- 29. Jeff Barry
- 30. Ruby Loft
- 31. Chad Carroll

### Events to Occur

- Dec 2 6 p.m. Youth Groups Meet
- Dec 2 7 p.m. Board Meeting
- Dec 3 2 p.m. UMW Christmas Meeting
- Dec 19 Men's Breakfast Meeting
- Dec 24 5 p.m. Dec Candlelight Service