



THANKSGIVING!!!

It is that time of year again. This is truly one of my favorite times of the year. This year I have so much to be thankful for. So for the next few minutes let me tell you what I am thankful for.

First, I am thankful for each and every one of you. You have made us feel like part of your family. Without your love, prayers, and support this would have been just another job. It is so much more than that. From the very first Sunday, we have felt a warmth that can only be felt because of the people who call this church home. But we can't pat ourselves on the back just yet. There is still a lot of work to be done for the cause of Christ.

Second I am thankful for my wife and children. Without their support I wouldn't be where I am today. They have been with me every step of the way. Our journey has just started and only God knows what lies in store for us. But I know that whatever his plan is for us we will gladly accept it and do his will.

Last, but most importantly, I am thankful for my lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I don't know why he chose me to be a shepherd for his sheep, but I know that with his love and direction great things will happen.

So I wish each and everyone of you a Happy Thanksgiving, and when you set down to eat that humongous dinner thank our God for the many blessings he has given you over the past year and remember that Advent starts the last Sunday in November.

With Christ's love, Pastor Larry

Festival of Sharing

October once again brought us to the end of another year of preparing the school kits for needy children. This year we prepared 46 kits. Pastor Larry delivered them to the mini-festival, to be taken to Columbia and placed into storage with other church's kits. They will be distributed when disasters or other catastrophic events occur. A number of church members took part in the preparation of the kits; a number of our church women cut and sewed the cloth bags, then they were joined by others who donated items to fill the bags such as pencils, crayons, scissors, erasers, spiral notebooks, rulers, and pencil sharpeners. The Senior High girls Sunday school class sorted the items and placed them in the bags to complete each kit. Thanks to everyone who helped with this worthy mission project.



Heifer Project Anniversary

On October 18th members of the Sunday school classes; adult through third grade met in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 to help celebrate the 65th anniversary of Heifer Project International. Following prayer and sharing of scripture from Isaiah 6:8 and Matthew 25:34-40, a video of Heifer Project activities around the world, featured families who were recipients of animals, who then passed on to another family the first female animal born to their animal. Heifer Project was the brainchild of Dan West, a member of the Brethren Church of Indiana. Mr. West served simple meals to people rendered

homeless following the Spanish Civil War in 1937 & 1938. He felt more could be done to help, therefore at the end of World War II Mr. West ignited a program with the thought, "Give a poor family a cow instead of a cup of milk."

Working with 44 countries of the United Nations, a program was begun by the Brethren Church to send animals. The Brethren men who accompanied these animals were christened: Seagoing Cowboys. The United Nations left the program in 1944 and the Brethren church's desire to serve created an ecumenical group known as Heifer Project.

In 1946, Frank Mason was a volunteer cowboy. The group he served with took horses to Poland to help farmers start over. Frank shared a DVD of his travel and scenes in war torn Europe. At the conclusion of the DVD, Frank shared his personal experiences and answered questions from those present. He traveled back to Poland in later years and was amazed how the country had recovered from the war devastation, making special note how resourceful the Polish people had been at salvaging everything possible for rebuilding. Frank continued sharing his journeys as those present enjoyed whole-wheat rolls, honey (A product of Heifer Project boos in Honduras) and juice.

The Heifer Project of 2009 supplies cows, goats, swine, rabbits, chickens, ducks, sheep water buffalo, trees and bees to go beyond hunger in more than 125 countries.

November Events

- Nov 4 Choir Practice
- Nov 5 UMW 2 p.m.
- Nov 7 Lord's Hour Sale
- Nov 11 Choir Practice
- Nov 18 Choir Practice
Board Meeting
- Nov 21 Men's Breakfast
- Nov 26 Thanksgiving



Lord's Hour Soup Supper and Auction

The annual dinner and auction is set to occur on Saturday, November 7th. The sign-up sheet for donations for the meal has been posted and folks are rapidly filling in their names to supply the many items for the meal. Following the supper which begins serving at 4:30 is the auction, with opening bids slated to begin at 7 p.m. The UMW is once again sharing their skills with the sale of baked goods. Their bakery will also open at 4:30 and stay open through the meal. Come and enjoy the meal and the bidders as they try to drive up the prices of some very special items. The quilt this year is made in honor of our Centennial.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1. Mark Sickal
2. Haden Carroll
4. Carrie Ellyson
Carolyne Boling
5. Robert Hopper
6. Bill & Glenna Daniel, Anniv
7. J. D. Barry
9. Maggie Jo Rutter
11. Scott Thompson
14. Brett Ryan Threlkeld
16. Anna Walker Blackford
17. Lucy Rutter
Keely McCarty
18. Carol Hiatt
20. Frank & Martha Mason, Anniv
Kenny & Jeanna Rutter, Anniv
Ferne Watson
Isabella Hutcherson
23. Ryan Walker
28. Bailey Schoonover
29. Tyler Schuster
30. Trevor Cunningham

Parsonage Refurbish Completed!!

This has surely been a year of clean up, clear out, and redo. With the completion of the basement remodel following the Great Flood of 2008, attention turned to refurbishing the parsonage in preparation for welcoming our new pastor, Larry DeSpain and his wife, Rebecca. They were able to move into the parsonage in October from their home in Macon.

The exterior has been improved by being pressure washed, the window shutters and the front door were given a fresh coat of black paint, window frames were painted, windows were washed inside and out, a security light was installed along with mail boxes for both the church and the parsonage. The flower beds were cleaned and new plantings added.

The interior underwent many changes, too. All walls and ceilings were painted. Door and window trims and baseboards were cleaned and painted or varnished as needed. Old heating equipment was removed, as were the old kitchen cabinets, carpeting, and the main bathroom was completely gutted.

New items included kitchen cabinets, sink, and countertop, range and hood, new ceiling lights, and dishwasher. The bathroom and family rooms each received new vinyl flooring. The bathroom also sports a new stool and tub surround.

The back entry has new indoor-outdoor carpeting and wall mounted coat rack. The mini-blinds were replaced with roller-shades. The electric service was enlarged and new switches, outlets & plates were added through out the house.

Most amazing was the refurbishing of the original hardwood floors. They were cleaned, sealed, waxed and buffed by James Bork and turned out just beautifully. Once again Mike Focht, with his expertise, came to our aid by working us into his busy schedule, as did Rich Maupin who helped us with our electrical problems.

Lots of items were donated and lots of time, too, as about two

months was spent on the remodel. Those helping were John & Ruth Wood, Lynda & LeRoy Proper, Ivan & DeEtte Carroll, David & Linda Barr, Rick & Sharri Kemp, Wade and Lane, Terry Mefford, Will & Wes, JoAnn Wood & daughters, Marsha Collins, Jeff Barry, David Masten, Kerry McCarty, E.W. Carroll, Gerald Perrin, Sarah Hoffmann, and Amy Presson. Please forgive me if I omitted your name. Just know how much we appreciated everyone's efforts. Thanks also for those who made monetary donations to the building fund so that we could proceed. We concluded the remodel with an open house on September 20th, following church services.

Utility Garage

With all the upheaval of 2009, the utility garage just east of the main church building was overrun with lots of left-over items. Supplies, furniture, etc left from the basement floor had been stored in this building. After the parsonage was finished several members helped to rearrange and clean the building. Some items were donated to Goodwill, some sold for scrap metal. Thanks to J. D. Barry for furnishing the skid loader for the heavy stuff. Automobiles can actually be parked inside, which is good as the winter season will soon be upon us.

Youth Groups Meet

The Clarence UMC Youth group kicked off a new year on Wednesday, October 7. We started the evening with a great supper and fellowship. Everyone gets to catch up with each other over delicious food.

The evening opened with announcements and suggestions for the year to come. Trevor Collins was voted in as treasurer during the brief business portion.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The youth are going to ask friends and family to clean out their closets and donate unused warm clothing, hats, gloves, boots and coats for deserving families in our area. We will be storing them at the church until we can arrange a pick up day for families. We will work with some of the ladies of the church to complete this project. The youth have also been asked to assist with serving the night of the Lord's Hour Sale. We will have a sign up sheet for workers.

Before the Bible study began, each member introduced him or herself to Pastor Larry. Pastor Larry asked the youth to assist him throughout the year on the Fifth Sunday services. A sign up sheet will be provided each month containing a fifth Sunday. The first month this will take place is in November. Due to the Advent program on the actual fifth Sunday, the youth will assist with the service on Sunday, Nov.22, the week before Thanksgiving.

Kim Thompson led the Bible study, based on the New Testament. All of the youth participated and as always there was great discussion.

As an extra activity, on October 21st the youth and four adults traveled to Marceline. The Marceline Ministerial Alliance sponsored a free event for area youth. Before leaving Clarence, the youth had a quick supper of pizza provided by one of the parents. Once in Marceline, the evening included Crystal Miller speaking of her survival during the Columbine school tragedy in Littleton, Colo. 10 years ago. She described to all present the events of the day, her reactions, and how her life changed following that fateful day. Concluding the evening was the band VOTA, a group of energetic young men from Lincoln, Nebraska. The group performed several songs, both from their new album and previous ones. Their lead singer also spoke to the group about discovering his faith in a youth group and how his life changed for the Lord. There was lots of discussion of the evenings' events on the drive home.

The youth will meet again on Wednesday, November 4. See you there!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors of the Shelby County Area met at the Father Buhman Center last night, October 22.

The date of January 17, 2010 has been decided on for the first Neighbors Helping Neighbors fundraiser. It will take place at the Father Buhman Center, beginning at 11 a.m. There will be a meal, live auction, and silent auction. Jesse and Carole will be establishing a bank account at the Community State Bank, with locations in Shelbina and Clarence. Donations can be dropped off at both bank locations for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund.

More email addresses were collected to help with communication among committees. As yet, I have been sending the info to those addresses on the prayer chain email. If you would like to be added to that listing, please contact me at ldwmitch@yahoo.com or call 573-588-4651. If you want to just receive the updates on Neighbors Helping Neighbors and would rather not receive the prayer email, let me know that as well. Informational updates will also be available in the area newspapers.

The organization will not be going door to door to the businesses to ask for donations. It will be totally up to the businesses to do as they wish.

The 50/50 Drawing was held at the homecoming games at North and South Shelby on October 2. \$187 was collected from that fundraising effort. This will be "seed money" to begin our efforts for the January fundraiser. Maurice Shuck also mentioned that the Knights of Columbus will donate \$200 to help with beginning expenses for the meal.

It was discussed that memorials could be given to help with the fund of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, if a family so desires.

The next meeting will be 6:30 on November 19 at the Father Buhman Center. At that time, we will firm up plans for the benefit, decide what will be needed, and have committees meet to make preparations. The fundraiser will need lots of hands to make it a success to help so many of our neighbors in need. Many have asked how they can help, so the following committees have been established. If you would like to sign up to help on one of the committees, again please let me know at ldwmitch@yahoo.com or call 573-588-4651.

Committees:

1. Meal planning/cooking committee- complete
2. Food service committee- collects items needed for the meal & organizes who will serve food, drinks, refill drinks, help to seat guests, refill dishes in the serving line
3. Publicity committee- makes and distributes flyers to local organizations and churches, asking for their help and support-possible items for the live and silent auctions. Gather info on addresses of those contacts. (This committee is pretty well taken care of.)
The two auction committees will work closely together- the main difference will be the duties that need to be done setting up the day before and the duties that day)
4. Live auction committee- coordinate and organize items for the live auction
5. Silent auction committee- organizes and keeps track of all donations.
6. Set Up committee- organize the setting up of the hall, including bringing in additional tables/chairs, etc
7. Tearing down committee- be available to take down tables/chairs and the return of any items for outside the FBC
8. Kitchen clean-up crew
9. Parking area attendants

Clarence UMC
301 South Center Street
Clarence, Missouri 64547

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