

The Wesley Message From Center Street

Clarence UMC Monthly Newsletter

October 2009

Volume I Issue X



REV'S RAMBLINGS

Today as I sit in front of the blank screen of my computer, trying to think of some thing to write, it suddenly dawned on me that we are almost at the end of summer. What a bummer, because I am not real fond of wearing long pants. I am much more comfortable in shorts and a tee shirt. I have been noticing that the leaves are starting to turn and some of the crops will be ready to harvest soon.

I just want to take this time to thank all of the wonderful people who have been toiling at the parsonage. It has been a pretty big job but the finished product is going to look wonderful. I was truly amazed the first time I looked in on what was being done. It doesn't even look like the same house that I looked at just two months ago. It looks like the target date of our moving is going to be the first of October. That was the date we had originally planned and it looks like that is going to happen.

I would say that we are looking forward to moving, but who likes to move? I will say we are looking forward to living and **worshipping with you**. It has been a true blessing for us to get to know this loving congregation. You truly live up to the Methodist saying of **OPEN DOORS, OPEN HEARTS, AND OPEN MINDS!!!**. But our job has just begun. We have a large part of our community who don't have a church home. We need to remember what Christ told his disciples. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

We have a big job to do, but one that we CAN and MUST DO! I am looking forward to fulfilling our mission with you. So until next time remember this: **WE CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST, WHO STRENGTHENS US.** In Christ's service, and with His Love, Pastor Larry

CLARENCE UMC BOARD MEETING

The Clarence UMC Board met Wednesday, September 16 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with attending members, Jim Watson, Lynda Proper, Amy Presson, DeEtte Carroll, Barbara Chittum, Susan McCarty, Jeff Barry, Pastor Larry, Dawn Masten, David Masten, Barbara Blaine, Reese Blaine, and Terry Mefford.

Terry opened the meeting with a devotional reading, "True Worth" taken from the September edition of the Upper Room. Pastor Larry then led the board with prayer.

Minutes of the August meeting were read with the correction that Amy was in attendance. The minutes were then accepted.

Amy presented the treasurer's report which was reviewed and discussed. The remodel cost for the parsonage is now at \$4,300, with the floor refinishing, and the balance of the hired work yet to be paid. We should be close to the targeted goal which was projected to be \$5,000. There were a few unforeseen expenses such as a new electrical breaker box, and roof repairs. Amy also proposed that we discontinue renting the P.O. Box at a cost of \$44.00 yearly and instead to

place two mail delivery boxes at the church. One will be used by the church and the other for the parsonage. Motion was made and approved to place the mailboxes. The treasurer's report was accepted.

The Youth Rally at Camp Jo Ota was well attended with 114 youth. They raised \$6,000 which they have donated to the new Barrow Dining Hall at the camp. Not everyone stayed overnight, so they had enough sleep space without using our Fellowship Hall.

Jeff reported for the Trustees, which included discussion about the parsonage remodel. Jeff thanked everyone who had a hand in the remodel. A tour for the congregation is planned for this Sunday following church services. The tuck pointing project was discussed and Jeff related that perhaps the west side of the church should be the next section repaired. He also reported that there is a "Nomad" group who travel around in their campers and help with repairs as their mission work. They help communities who have a need for workers. They work in three week increments, four days per week. Mike Focht will begin repairs on the inside of the sanctuary on the north wall where the plaster wall is close to collapsing. This work will begin this fall when weather prevents Mike from doing outside jobs.

David Masten presented the proposal for the additional audio/visual equipment needed for the sanctuary. Grant money in the amount of \$1,667.00 has been received, and we need to match that amount by an additional 20%, in the amount of \$333.40, which brings the total to be spent at \$2,000.40. The bid for the entire proposal which includes all audio/visual equipment was \$4,179.00. Because of the shortness of funds, the second proposal for the audio equipment, only, was considered. That proposal was in the amount of

\$1,976.00, which was under our targeted total. With the additional expense of a microphone stand, our 20% requirement will be reached. This equipment includes a mixing console, an audio monitor for the choir and a handheld wireless microphone for the congregation, a headset for the pastor, and connecting equipment. All the equipment is from I3 Company, the company we purchased the existing audio/visual from last spring. The motion was made, seconded and passed to purchase the audio equipment, with David doing the install.

The men will have a Chicken dinner fundraiser on Saturday, October 3 with serving to begin at 4:30. This is a fundraiser to help cover expenses for campers for next summer. In addition, the church will have a carry-in dinner on October 4th following church services.

Pastor Larry reported that Charge Conference will be at our church Sunday, November 8th. In addition to our Clarence UMC, we will be joined by the Bethlehem, and the Monroe Chapel Church at Duncan's Bridge. Larry related that the cluster meeting was cancelled due to non-interest.

DeEtte suggested that we need a way to keep Pastor Larry better informed about the need for him to make home and hospital visits to members of our congregation. All agreed that there needs to be a written chart made for him.

Amy Presson expressed her desire to teach a Sunday school class for college age members who return home each week. As of now they are meeting with the high school group. The men offered to sacrifice and give her their Sunday school room to use and they will again meet in the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

Barbara Chittum reported on plans for the 2009 Pictorial Directory. Mary Dunaway of Shelbina will take the photos at our church on Saturday October 24th from 9-5, and on Sunday afternoon October 25th following church services. Michelle Utterback will call members and set up a time schedule for the sittings. Barbara also presented a copy of the Shelbina History book which Mary had supplied. This is

the same company who will print the directory and the cost for the history book, based on 136 pages will be about \$37.50, with the understanding that addition pages will be addition costs.

Dawn requested permission for Austin Bryant, from the St. James UMC from Kansas City, to sing a special on October 4th. Request granted.

Discussed was the Lay Leadership Speaking training. Dawn announced that the Lord's Hour Dinner and Auction was in preparation. This year it will include health screenings, and entertainment from the 7 member group, "Spiritual Sounds," who are from Madison, MO. This meal will be soup and sandwiches this year. Other announcements were that the Bishop cannot attend our centennial celebration in February 2010, and that there will be a Safe Sanctuary training November 12th.

David requested that we Charter the newly formed Clarence Boy Scouts pack. There are 15 boys ranging from 1st -5th grades. They need someone to charter them and they need a place to meet. He would pay the \$20.00 annual fee, but would like to meet in the church for their monthly meetings. Motion was made and passed to charter them and allow them to use the church for their meetings.

Reese expressed his appreciation for last Sunday's power point presentation.

Pastor Larry asked permission to purchase advent candles and drip collars for use in the Christmas Eve Service. It will be about a one hour service. He also asked if we have an advent wreath, which we do. He would like for the advent readings to be done each week by different couples. He stated that he was going to purchase three suits for \$600 and robes for about \$400, from expense funds provided by the church. He will not be able to do his continuing education until next year.

It was decided to either combine the two phone lines, one from the office and the other in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. If it cannot be done, then we will

discontinue the kitchen phone line.

DeEtte closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mrs. Thompson

There is a story many years ago of an elementary teacher. Her name was Mrs. Thompson. And as she stood in front of her 5th grade class on the very first day of school, she told the children a lie. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. But that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he didn't play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. And Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise.

Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners..he is a joy to be around." His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well-liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle." His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken."

Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing and a bottle that was one quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist.

Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, "Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to."

After the children left she cried for at least an hour. On that very day, she quit teaching reading, and writing, and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one of her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had in his whole life.

Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he

got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer. The letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, M.D.

The story doesn't end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he'd met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit in the place at the wedding that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. And she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together. They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you, Mrs. Thompson, for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference."

Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

I AM THANKFUL FOR...

....the mess to clean after a party because it means I have been surrounded by friends.

....the taxes I pay because it means I am employed.

....the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.

....a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.

....my shadow who watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine.

....the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it

means I am capable of walking.

....all the complaining about our government because it means we have freedom of speech.

....my large heating bill because it means I am warm.

....the lady behind me in church, who sings off key because it means that I can hear.

....the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours because it means I am alive.

....the piles of laundry and ironing because it means my loved ones are nearby.

....weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been productive.

....and your friendship

October Events

- Oct 1 UMW Meeting
- Oct 3 Men's Chicken Dinner
- Oct 4 Carry-in Dinner
- Oct 7 Choir Practice
- Oct 14 Choir Practice
- Oct 17 Men's Breakfast
- Oct 21 Choir Practice
Board Meeting
- Oct 28 Choir Practice
- Oct 31 Halloween



Birthdays

&

Anniversaries

- 9. Allison Barry
- 10. Mike Mueller
Tiffany Cunningham
- 11. Shana Threlkeld
- 14. Raymond McDuffee
- 16. Rachele Wood
- 17. Merrett Reid
- 21. Susan McCarty
- 22. Colleen Reid
Ruth Ann Walker
Kenny Rutter
- 24. Florence Schoonover
Renae Foreman
- 25. Earl & Mae Walker, Anniv.
Bob McCollum
Randy & Peggy White, Anniv.
- 26. Sandra Boling
Dustin Boling
- 28. Aaron Quinley
Kent Weisenborn
- 29. Erin Mitchell Gill

Clarence United Methodist Church
Center & Broad Streets
Clarence, Missouri 63437

May You Have A

Happy  Halloween