

ATHENS AND CANTRALL NEWSLETTER

September 2010

UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES



GLAD TIDINGS

Dear friends,

As we turn the calendar over to September, there are two things I would like to share with you. First, I would like to introduce our next sermon series; one that will take us through the fall. To introduce this series, I have a question for you. When was the last time you heard a sermon based on Zephaniah? How about Nahum or Habbakuk? My guess is that many of us probably have heard few, if any, sermons from these books of the Old

Testament. Along with nine others, Zephaniah, Nahum, and Habbakuk are part of group known as the Minor Prophets. They are called the Minor Prophets because their writings are far shorter than Isaiah or Jeremiah or Ezekiel. However, they are no less important. Unfortunately, though, these books often get overlooked as an important part of Scripture. With that in mind, beginning September 12, our worship is going to be centered around the writings of these Minor Prophets. Our exploration of them will proceed from the earliest prophet to the later prophets; thus, we will not necessarily be following them in the order in which they are presented in the Bible.

There are several reasons for spending this time hearing from these prophets. The foremost reason is simply to allow us to hear voices that oftentimes are not heard in Christian worship. Secondly, I want to simply expose us to these writings that are so easy to overlook. They are a part of our faith heritage and it is important for us to at least have an idea of what is contained within their writings. At the same time, hearing what they say also gives us a chance to know and encounter God in ways that might be new for many of us. Finally, exploring these writings at this time of year allows us to create an "extended" Advent season—a time to prepare for God's gracious gift of Jesus.

I will acknowledge up front, however, that studying and exploring the writings of the prophets can be difficult, even unsettling. Not the least disturbing is the fact that the message of the prophets often speaks of God's judgment or some indication that the people of Israel are on the wrong track in God's sight. It is not an easy message to hear. No one wants to hear that God is displeased with them. At the same time, though, God loves us too much to not speak to us to correct where we might go astray from God's will. A common theme will see throughout many of the prophets, though, is that God is always willing to forgive and restore God's people and turn away from God's judgments. A second difficulty is hearing the story of the prophets on this side of Jesus' life and ministry, death and resurrection. It is easy for us to look upon these writings and simply chalk them up as unimportant because of Jesus. Remember, though, that Jesus himself said he came not to abolish the prophets, but to fulfill what the prophets proclaimed. The challenge for us will be to see what the prophets say in the context of when they were written, while retaining our knowledge of Jesus—the perfect example of fulfilling God's intentions.

The second thing I want to call to your attention is all the things going on in our churches that have to do with prayer. I cannot stress enough that we are called to be praying people. Before we do anything, God calls us to prayer. In fact, I would go as far to say that prayer is the most important thing we can do, as a church and as individual. It is only through prayer that we are able to get God's direction for anything else we do in the life of the church. My encouragement is for each of us to spend some quality time in prayer each day. I invite you to be in prayer for our church, our mission, our community, and our world. I've heard some say something to the effect, "I'm just not good at praying" or "I don't know what to pray for". These are valid concerns, but prayer, like other skills, takes practice. My hope is that prayer would be an enriching practice for each of us and that through this practice, we might each grow in grace and grow closer to the heart of God. May God grant us the grace to do what our souls would desire! Grace and peace,

Pastor Jarrett

			Sept.			
			1	2	3	4
			6pm Family Night Out - A	8-10am Coffee Cup -C 1pm UMW -A	6pm- Weiner Roast and prayer before football game - A	5:30 pm Casual Worship -A
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Communion 9 am - Joyful Singers practice - A Cantrall Choir Practice	8-10 am Coffee House -A			8-10am Coffee Cup -C		5:30 pm Casual Worship -A
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9 am - Joyful Singers practice - A Cantrall Choir Practice	8-10 am Coffee House -A 7:00 pm - UMW - C 7:00 pm Admin Council meets - A	7:00 pm Admin Council meets - C	6pm Family Night Out - A	8-10am Coffee Cup -C		5:30 pm Casual Worship -A
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9 am - Joyful Singers practice and perform at Worship Service - A Cantrall Choir Practice	8-10 am Coffee House -A 7:30 pm UMW - C	10am and 6:30 pm - Women of Promise - A		8-10am Coffee Cup -C		5:30 pm Casual Worship -A
26	27	28	29	30		
9 am - Joyful Singers practice - A Cantrall Choir Practice	8-10 am Coffee House -A 4:00 pm - Women of Promise planning meeting - A					

Anniversaries

Ronna and Brian Lewis - 5th (C)
Dawn & Charlie VanMeter - 9th (C)
Tami & Mark Schlueter - 9th (C)
Joyce & John Kern-12th (A)
Delbert & Marilyn Tobias - 13th (A)
Sandy & Robert W. Zook -15th (A)
Michelle & Dave Tebrugge - 17th (C)
April & Stephen Howard - 18th (C)
Nancy & Ken Litchfield - 21st (A)
Marilyn & Fred Bell - 28th (C)



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AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Thomas Nicholson - 1st (A)
Sierra Germann - 2nd (C)
Wilbur Dennison - 3rd (C)
Jennifer Sellman - 3rd (A)
Randy Atkinson - 4th (C)
Dustana Long - 4th (C)
Josh Smith - 4th (A)
Chris Riedle - 6th (C)
Virginia Rush - 7th (A)
Gayle Denton - 8th (C)
Bryce Stott - 11th (A)
Craig Carpentier - 12th (C)
Edna White - 12th (C)
Sally Prohoska - 13th (C)
Laura Hepner - 14th (C) (A)
Loretta Brooks - 14th (A)
Allison Burris - 14th (C)
Kayla Tedrow - 15th (A)
Melody Burch - 16th (A)



Melinda Tedrow - 17th (A)
Debbi Montgomery - 19th (A)
Walter Fornoff - 20th (A)
Pat Dansby - 21st (A)
Derek Hughes - 21st (C)
Lisa Long - 24th (C)
Josh Alderman - 25th (C)
Jason Stadsholt - 25th (C)
Addison Stadsholt - 27th (C)
Joseph Epperson - 30th (C)
Terry Harvey - 30th -(A)



United Methodist Women

The Cantrall United Methodist Women will begin meeting on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled September 13, at 7:00 pm at the Cantrall UMC. All women are encouraged to come and join the fellowship.



United Methodist Men

"Methodist Men Mission Minded"

About three years ago, one of our members of Cantrall United Methodist Men came up with the slogan "MMMM". We try to use it when we can and our latest mission was August 9 and 10th of this year. We were approached for a new mission to build a wheel chair ramp. We went to the site and took measurements a couple weeks ahead of the project and after two key members returned from summer vacations, we came up with items needed and a very talented volunteer crew. We had post holes dug and cemented into the ground. We then put together a strong framework to hold the ramp surface. We installed the top rail and spindles for a near professional finished project. This ramp was installed in Athens for recent heart attack brother member Rich VanMeter. My thanks to the volunteers and wives who prepared meals for our labors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ray Bounds, "Project Chairman"

Athens-Cantrall United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men meet every third Monday evening at 7:30 pm at Cantrall United Methodist Church. Come join us in the fellowship.



Praises to our Father in Heaven for answering the many prayers said for Rich! Thanks to Pastor Jarrett for his visits and calls. The visits in the hospital and since returning home are greatly appreciated. The many cards sent by friends, church family and family have given comfort to each of us.

The Methodist Men have built the best ramp anywhere, right here at our home! The ramp has enabled us to get back to church and to enjoy getting away from home! The men worked here in extreme heat and the first night and heavy rain the second night. The generosity and sacrifices of these men will never be forgotten! The skilled carpenters included: Randy and Ryan Atkinson, Ray Bounds, Kenny Bounds, Tom Brune, Bob Ervin, Don Goodenow, Charlie and Coady VanMeter, and Larry Wilkens.

Thanks to God and all of you!!

Rich and Jerilyn VanMeter

CANTRALL CHOIR NEWS

Psalm 21:13- Be exalted, O Lord, in your own strength! We will sing and praise your power. Cantrall choir will be meeting for rehearsal on Sunday mornings 29th during the Sunday school hour.

Cantrall Kids choir, grades 3-6, will continue to meet after church each Sunday before Sunday school.

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The annual Charge Conference will be coming real soon. Therefore, Pastor Jarrett will be scheduling many committee meetings that will need to have their business matters taken care of so we can get all the many reports completed before the Charge Conference.

Please be looking at the announcement page on Sunday mornings for scheduled meetings. If you are not sure if you should be there, call the office for information.



BABY BOTTLES!!!

We have baby bottles from the Pregnancy Resource Center in Lincoln which will be in the vestibule of Athens and Cantrall in the next few weeks. The pregnancy Resource Center helps girls and women with health issues and many emotional issues that they are dealing with. They also now have an adoption center in Champaign. Just take a bottle and put your change in and return to the church and they will pick up the bottles at a later time. In advance they thank you for the many gifts you have so generously made to the Center.



THE RISING HOPE

Encouragement for your Heart

Listen to the news media on any given day, and you probably wonder, "Is there any hope left?" Soaring energy prices, weather-related catastrophes, economic instability, military conflict, crime, layoffs, suicides –and on and on. Even closer to home, perhaps you struggle with hopelessness about your marriage, children, job, friendships, or other things you hold dear.

We all need hope! When enduring life's most difficult times, we need to believe that a positive outcome is possible.

- . . .When we are trapped in a tunnel of misery, hope points to the light at the end.
- . . .When we are overworked and exhausted, hope gives us fresh energy.
- . . .When we are discouraged, hope lifts our spirits.
- . . .When we are tempted to quit, hope keeps us going.
- . . .When we lose our way and confusion blurs the destination, hope dulls the edge of panic.
- . . . When we fear the worst, hope reminds us that God is still in control.
- . . .When we must endure the consequences of God's decisions, hope fuels our recovery.
- . . .When we find ourselves unemployed, hope tells us we still have a future.
- . . .When we are forced to sit back and wait, hope gives us the patience to trust.
- . . .When we feel rejected and abandoned, hope reminds us we're not alone.
- . . .When we say our final farewell to someone we love, hope of life beyond the grave gets us through our grief.

Hope isn't optional. It's essential to our survival.

Hope is as important to us as water is to a fish, as vital as electricity is to a light bulb, as essential as air is to a jumbo jet. Hope is basic to life. We cannot stay on the road to our dreams without it, at least not very far. Many have tried -- none successfully. Take away our hope, and our existence is reduced to depression and despair.

When life hurts and dreams fade, nothing helps like hope.

But where does hope come from? Is it something that we can cultivate within ourselves? Does positive thinking hold the key? "To what do you look for hope?"

Charles R. Swindoll

LABOR DAY

Labor Day is annually held on the first Monday of September. It was originally organized to celebrate various labor associations' strengths of and contributions to the United States economy. It is largely a day of rest in modern times. Many people mark Labor Day as the end of the summer season and a last chance to make trips or hold outdoor events.

What do People Do

Labor Day is a day of rest or the last chance for many people to go on trips before the summer ends. For students, it is the last chance to organize parties before school starts again. In some neighborhoods, people organize fireworks displays, barbecues and public arts or sports events. The football season starts on or around Labor Day and many teams play their first game of the year during Labor Day weekend.

Traditionally people did not wear white clothes, particularly shoes, after Labor Day. However, this custom is slowly dying out. More and more people now wear white all year round, rather than just in the summer. Similarly, it is the custom to wear a straw cowboy hat from Memorial Day until Labor Day, then a felt one until Memorial Day comes around again.

Public life

Labor Day is a federal holiday. All Government offices, schools and organizations and many businesses are closed. Some public celebrations, such as fireworks displays, picnics and barbecues, are organized, but they are usually low key events. For many teams, it is the start of the football season. As it is the last chance for many people to take summer trips, there may be some congestion on highways and at airports. Public transit systems do not usually operate on their regular timetables.

Background

The first Labor Day was held in 1882. Its origins stem from the desire of the Central Labor Union to create a holiday for workers. It became a federal holiday in 1894. It was originally intended that the day would be filled with a street parade to allow the public to appreciate the work of the trade and labor organizations. After the parade, a festival was to be held to amuse local workers and their families. In later years, prominent men and women held speeches. This is less common now, but is sometimes seen in election years. One of the reasons for choosing to celebrate this on the first Monday in September was to add a holiday in the long gap between Independence Day and Thanksgiving.

As you celebrate this Labor Day and are fortunate to have a job to go to each day, please remember those who are out of a job and looking for work. Please keep them in your prayers.

Athens United Methodist Church Newsletter

August, 2010



The Athens United Methodist Women will meet at the church on September 2, at 1:00 p.m. Marie Basso will be the hostess and bring the program. There will also be an election of officers.

Midwest Mission Distribution Center

The United Methodist Women work at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center on the first Monday of the odd numbered months. The next date for working at MMDC will be Tuesday, Sept 7 (due to Labor Day). See Joan Smith if you are interested in helping.

Prayer Warriors



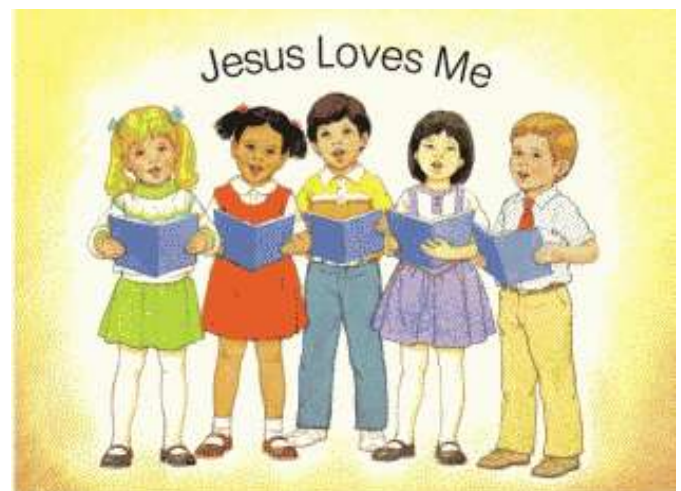
All are invited to join us at 6PM before every home football game in the parking lot of the Athens United Methodist Church. There will be a prayer time at 6 PM for the athletes and any other personal prayer requests. Following prayer, complimentary hot dogs will be served until 6:30. Home games are scheduled for Sept. 3, Sept. 10, Oct. 2, Oct. 9, and Oct. 22.

If you have questions contact Pastor Jarrett or Jeff Stott.

Joyful Singers Update

The Joyful Singers have resumed practice as of Sunday, August 29. Practices remain every Sunday morning at 9:00am in the sanctuary. Their singing dates for the remainder of 2010 are: September 19, October 17, November 14 and December 12.

We enjoy the children so much, and we appreciate how the parents and grandparents try to get them to practices and worship services!



Wednesday Night Out Menu



Sept. 1

Fried Chicken
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Green Beans
Salad
Bread
Cake and Ice Cream

Sept. 15

Pork Loin Roast
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Baked Beans
Jello Salad
Bread
Dessert

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School has come and gone for 2010. We had great attendance each evening, averaging 25 kids who journeyed to Egypt to visit Joseph on his journey from prison to palace. Our mission was HIS Home for Children in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. Offering money is going to purchase mosquito nets for the babies at HIS Home. The offerings were enough to purchase a net for each baby currently at HIS Home. Thank you to ALL who helped with VBS this year!

We sent out the call for help and you responded. Many volunteers served in the kitchen each day to prepare a meal for the attendees and helpers. This was a great time of fellowship and community for everyone. Thank you to Linda Pedigo, Jeff Stott, Nancy Swanson, Mike Cravens, Donna Emmerich, Stephanie Churchill, Andrea Wells, and Karon Dugger for giving of your time, talents, and food donations to bless all of us at VBS.

The journey each evening would not have been possible without the many adults who assisted with the children. Thank you for your dedication and hospitality to the children that came into our world of Egypt for a week: Jarrett Wells, Kay Fischer, Cathy Lindsey, Mike and Melissa Paoni, Lori Atkinson, Connie Goodenow, Pat Dansby, Patty Tobias, Jan Phillips, Mark and Mary Grant, and Sandi Brackney.

Thank you again!
Jenifer Johnson
VBS Director

Parsonage Update

Under the direction of the trustees/parsonage committee a new roof has been installed by Smith Roofing. Prior to installation the old shingles were removed. We want to thank both of those committees for their hard work.

On Friday, August 13, a large limb was blown onto the garage roof. The following Monday, Earl Dugger, Randy Beavers, Robert Zook and John Curry removed the tree limb and several others limbs within the tree that were damaged. They also removed the overgrown Burning Bushes on the corner that were obstructing the view. All the brush was taken to the Zook farm to be burned. We want to thank these men for their hard work and dedication to being good stewards of the parsonage.

Channing Wins Ponytail Contest

Channing Fullaway, our babysitter during Sunday Worship Service, was a winner in the Illinois State Fair Ponytail Contest. Channing won the 13-16 years old division and was also named the Grand Champion in the youth division. The winning length of her ponytail was 44 1/2". For being named the Grand Champion, Channing won a \$150 Bright Start Gift Certificate for her college education.

Channing, we are very proud of you. You have always been a winner in our minds and do a great job as a babysitter.



Prayer Walk

Thanks to all who joined us on our first prayer walk through the Athens community. More walks will be planned in the near future. Keep an eye on the bulletin for an announcement of when our next walk will take place.

WOMEN OF PROMISE



Tuesday, Sept. 20 - 10 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.

All women of the community are invited to join us for a relaxing two hours in our Upper Room at the Athens United Methodist Church. You will enjoy an inspirational speaker, fellowship and conversation with other women, and a light, delicious meal prepared especially for you. Come and see for yourself why many area women set aside the third Tuesday of every month to attend Women of Promise!

Call 636-8785 or email kay@kaycoach.com for reservations. Childcare is available with advance notice. You can also call the church at 636-8844 for more information.

The Wrong Reason to Read



A friend of W.C. Fields once walked into his dressing room unannounced and caught him reading the Bible. Knowing Field's cynical attitude toward religion, he was surprised. Fields himself seemed embarrassed and quickly shut the book. "Just looking for loopholes," he explained.

-*Christianity Today*

Let us so live that when we tell someone we are a Christian, it confirms their suspicions instead of surprises them.

-Leonard Sweet

We Are Born Anew

We heard it often said that life is but a day. It is said to express the shortness of our stay upon the earth. It is said, for the most part, sorrowfully. Let us reverse it, and say, with more striking truth, that each day is a life. Every day is a life, fresh with reinstated power, setting out on its allotted labor and limited path. Its morning resembles a whole youth. Its eventide is sobering into age. It is rounded at either end by a sleep, unconsciousness at the outset and oblivion at the close. We are born anew every time that the sun rises and lights up the world for man to do his part in it. One thing at least may be shown of each day, as it dawns and darkens; it is that every one, short as it may be, embodies the fullness of the past and indicates what is long afterwards to come.

Resolve, when you awake, that it shall be to some faithful purpose, and that your renovated powers shall be obedient to Him who has renewed them. And throw a glance backward, before your eyes are weighed down, to see how well you have kept the morning's resolution.

Let us devote ourselves anew to the service of goodwill. Let us resolve for the time to be considerate of all, the present and the absent; to be just to all; to be kindly affectionate to all.

-Nathaniel Langdon Frothingham

Join the whole creation of animate things in a deep, heartfelt joy that you are alive; that you have seen the sun, that you are on this glorious earth which nature has made so beautiful and which is yours to conquer and enjoy.

-Sir William Osler



School has started up again with children crossing roadways, getting on school buses, going to sporting events, coming home with homework, etc. Growing up can be stressful for the child as well as the parent.

We are reminded of that in the following poem
by Garnett Ann Schultz:

To Raise A Child

It takes a bit of wisdom
With an understanding smile,
A patience that's unending
And a tender heart worthwhile,
A faith and hope to treasure
And a gentleness supreme,
A touch of rich forbearance
With a bright and shining dream.

It takes a bit of helping
And a listener from the start,
Ever kindly-ever loving
With a warm believing heart,
A blessedness and trusting
Giving more that you would ask,
A home where God is present
And where doing is no task.

It takes a Dad and Mother
And cooperation too,
If a child would live in beauty
And to everyone be true,
Goodly deeds and sweet togetherness
Worthwhile things that parents teach,
To raise a child in glory
It takes a bit of each.

