

ALPHA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 2015

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST, TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITY
ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
REV. ZACKARY T. GLENN, PASTOR
211 S. SCANDIA ST., PO BOX 607, ALPHA, IL 61413

Volume 2015 Issue 11

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus taught his disciples about the urgency of prayer for gospel ministry: *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."* (Luke 10:2). I am grateful to God that many of you have been praying this prayer for our local church throughout this year of transition. Our call as a local United Methodist church to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community" requires the similar patience, discipline, preparation, vigilance, and promptness that our farmers practice in harvest season. When the crops display signs of maturity, each worker and every resource available is dedicated to the tremendous task of reaping the ripened crops.

In our spiritual fieldwork of making disciples of Jesus Christ, we must be good stewards and wisely employ our relationships and resources so to *"love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength"*, and *"to love your neighbor as yourself."* In terms of our stewardship as United Methodist Christians, we are committed as a church to giving ourselves to God in worship through our **prayers**, our **presence**, our **gifts**, our **service**, and our **witness**. So, on Sunday October 18th, during our annual Stewardship Sunday I shared the following membership challenge for us to take up in 2016:

"Membership for Me = (Worship + 2) x (Friendship with You)."

- 1) Faithfully attend worship and give to God your prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness.*
- 2) Grow in your love for God by joining a discipleship ministry.*
- 3) Go and serve others in God's love with an outreach ministry.*
- 4) Keep a holy friendship for prayer and encouragement; share one meal together a month.*

The work of harvest is crucial to a local community as each farmer works together with their fellow co-laborers to collect and account for the year's yields from the fields. I believe that God is answering your prayers *"to send out laborers into his harvest"* and we can see this taking place through our own 'yields from the fields' of Christian discipleship and outreach ministry.

Presently, our all-ages Sunday school ministry is gaining momentum and more volunteers are needed to help our learners study God's Word, pray together, and grow in faith. Meanwhile, our youth Confirmation class has expanded to 8 students; soon we will be recruiting 8 adult disciples to serve as their mentors. Our new Tuesday morning weekly bible study has grown to 11 adults already. Finally, on Sunday October 25th, we the people of Alpha UMC, renounced evil and sin, professed our faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, remembered our baptism, and joyously received 10 adults with 3 children as professing members of our local church. Praise the Lord! Let's fix our eyes on Christ the pioneer of our faith.

Our outreach influence has been increasing as well. In the last half of 2015 we have been feeding on average of 175 people a month between the free community meal, our mission meal, and the Humility of Mary meal. Our emergency outreach fund has been able to provide short-term discretionary relief for several families this year too. I hope that our enthusiasm and support for outreach and missions continues this month with our annual canned food drive for the Alwood Community Food Pantry that kicks off on Nov. 1st. Let's fill up that altar area to feed the hungry and share the love of God!

Give thanks and glory to God, our Lord of the harvest!

Pastor Zack

Administrative Council 2015

Chair: Kurt Jordan

Vice Chair: Mary Nice

Finance: Dean Kernan

Trustees: Ed Schultz

S/PPRC: Dale Lanning

Outreach: Lindi Kernan

Nurture: Deb Briggs

Worship: Cathy Jordan

Christian Ed: Ian Yoder

Sunday School Supt.: Jean Roberts

UMW Chair: Mary Nice

Men in Mission: Dean Kernan

Lay Leader: Lindi Kernan

Alternate: Cathy Jordan

Youth Rep.: Joseph Nickolayson

Recording Secretary: Desirae Silvis

Irene Bodeen

Posted: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 4:32 pm



Irene Wasson Bodeen, 99, passed away Friday, Oct. 16, 2015.

She was born at her grandparents' house in Pope County, Ill., 99 and a half years ago. She grew up in coal-mining country in southern Illinois, and then graduated from nursing school in Peoria in 1937. She married Virgil Bodeen in 1938 in Alpha, and lived in and around the Alpha/Peoria area most of her adult life, until moving to Louisville, Ky., in 1999.

Irene was much loved by everyone who knew her. Always busy in church and community activities, she taught Sunday school, attended Home Bureau, United Methodist Women, delivered Mobile Meals and ministered to anyone who needed something. She visited seven foreign countries and most of the states. She was an efficient farm wife, an excellent and affectionate mother and a beautiful Christian. She worked in nursing at Peoria State Hospital for 11 years. After moving to Kentucky, she joined Middletown United Methodist Church, where she was an active member of the TriM Sunday school class and served as a greeter until very recently. She had many health setbacks in later years, but bounced back and was called the "Energizer bunny." Everyone enjoyed her wry sense of humor.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years; her parents, Ray and Callie Wasson; her twin sister, Pauline Albritton; and brother, Sam Wasson.

She is survived by her sister, Betty Pyle, Orlando, Fla.; son, Virgil Duane (Dianne), Falls Church, Va.; daughter, Diane Fairfield (Steve), Louisville; daughter, Donna Walton (Robert), Jonesboro, Ill.; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews; and countless friends.

The family wishes to thank the staffs at Norton Brownsboro Hospital, the Beehive at Goshen, Homewatch Caregivers, Hosparus and Brownsboro Park Retirement Community for all their special care.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Irene's memory to Middletown United Methodist Church, 11902 Old Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40243; or to Alpha United Methodist Church, 211 N. Scandia St., Alpha, IL 61413.

**Memorial Service
for
Irene Bodeen**

**Saturday, November 21
10:00 am
Alpha UMC**

Luncheon to follow.



**Wednesday,
November 18**



USHERS

THIS MONTH

Eddie & Emily Bradshaw

November Liturgist: 01: Angie Althaus 08: David Althaus
 15: Mary Nice 22: Bob Bateman
 29: Dale Lanning

November Birthdays

06: Matt Gillette
 09: Kevin Spivey
 15: Tracy Harmon
 Dave Lambin
 18: Tucker Swanson
 Betty Willet
 27: Sam Althaus
 29: Mackenzie Brown



01: Pete & Evelyn Barton
 08: Need volunteers
 15: Need volunteers
 22: Kurt & Cathy Jordan

November Anniversaries

25: Ken & Phyllis Kearney



Ushers and Liturgist Needed!

We are in desperate need of volunteers to serve as ushers and liturgists.

Ushers serve for one month, welcoming and handing out bulletins as people enter the sanctuary.

They assist with communion and the weekly offering.

Liturgists serve by reading announcements and Bible readings during the service. Generally, liturgists serve once every 2 months.

Both of these vital ministries require little to no time commitment outside of church and are a wonderful way to serve.

Please contact Desirae ASAP if you wish to serve as an usher or liturgist.

See Pastor Zack or Cathy Jordan with any questions.

LGLS

Answers to Prayer!



Our Sunday School continues to grow! We now have enough volunteers to divide our elementary age Sunday School class! So, later in November...

Thad and Kathy Curry will lead a Sunday School class for students in 3rd and 4th grade. They will continue to follow the Deep Blue curriculum, which students have been enjoying!

Gina Medley, Renee Young, and Sami Greene will continue to teach our younger students, pre-k - 2nd grades, also using the Deep Blue curriculum.

Cathy Jordan and Sadie Carlson will continue to lead the 5th -8th graders in their acolyte class.

Emily and Eddie Bradshaw will continue to lead our high school youth class.

All classes begin at 9:00am on Sunday mornings. Come join the fun!

College Box Time!

It's almost finals time! Let's show our college students their church supports them!

Nurture is collecting snack items for college boxes.

We have 9 students this year!!!



While you're out shopping, grab a couple of goodies a college student.

Collection will continue through Nov. 29.

Thanks!



Men-in- Mission

40th Annual Soup Supper

Saturday, November 14

5:00 - 7:00 pm



Men in Mission will be holding their 40th annual Soup Supper this month. Come warm up with a bowl of chili or potato soup and a delicious piece of pie.

Cost: Donation at the door

PACK THE PANTRY!!!

It's that time of year again. Beginning November 1, Alpha UMC will be participating in Pack the Pantry, to benefit the AlWood Food Pantry. While you're out shopping, please pick up a few extra non-perishable food items to donate. There is a particular need for sugar, peanut butter, fruit, toilet paper, facial tissue.

Please bring items to the church and leave at the altar. Let's fill it up!



We are also looking for 2 volunteers to serve as representatives for the food pantry. If this is something you are interested in, please contact the church office.

Outreach meals

Community Meal

Free Community Meal

Saturday, Nov. 7

5 - 7 pm

There will be no Mission Meal or meal at Humility of Mary Shelter in November

Happy Thanksgiving

Early Response Training

If a disaster were to strike in our community or within the Spoon River District, wouldn't it be great to have a team of trained Early Responders from Alpha UMC to help in those first days of recovery? We have the opportunity to begin this ministry now.

Early Response Teams are not emergency workers or a recover, rebuild, repair team. Rather, they fill a specific need in the early days after a disaster to establish the presence of the church.

Early Responder Training will be offered by UMCOR trainers in October. Let's try to a group together to attend, so that Alpha UMC will be ready to help when disaster strikes.

Choose from ONE of the upcoming training dates:

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2015

or

Date: Saturday, January 9, 2016

Time: 8:00am - 4:30pm

Time: 8:30am - 5:00pm

Place: Herscher UMC

Place: Highland Hope UMC

Registration deadline: Friday, Nov. 6

Registration deadline: Saturday, Jan. 2



On October 25th Alpha UMC was blessed by welcoming ten new members!

A warm welcome to Richard and Jamie Coffey, Robert and Lori Defrieze, Jeannie Defrieze and Kyle Mitchell, Julia Glenn, Kelli Johnson, Joseph Shepherd, and Roger Swanson.

We welcome you as part of our church family!

Hanging of the Greens

It's almost time to decorate for Christmas! Join us Saturday November 28 at 10:00am to help deck the halls of Alpha UMC.

We will be putting up our Christmas tree, hanging banners, and decorating the fellowship hall and fireplace room.

It is always a fun time of fellowship and a great way to begin Advent!





November 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 All Saints Day CE meeting following worship 5:30 pm Confirmation Class	2	3 9:30 - 11:00am Bible Study 6:30 pm SPPRC	4 Pastor @ District Clergy mtg. 6:30 pm Trustees 6:45 pm Sunshiners	5	6	7 5 -7pm Community Meal
8	9	10 9:30 - 11:00am Bible Study	11 Veteran's Day	12 1:30 pm UMW	13	14 5 - 7pm Soup Supper
15 5:30 pm Confirmation Class	16	17 9:30—11:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Council	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21 10:00 am Memorial Service for Irene Bodeen
22 Christ the King Sunday	23	24 9:30 - 11:00am Bible Study	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving! 	27	28 10:00am Hanging of the Greens
29 First Sunday of Advent	30					

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Rev. Zackary T. Glenn, Pastor

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 A.M. All Sunday School Classes Begin

9:30 A.M. Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall

10:00 A.M. Worship Service



Have you visited our website?
Dean Kernan is the creator and manager of our website.
Our Web address is alphaumc.org



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