

AUMC

November 2013

CATCH THE SPIRIT
ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PASTOR TERRY EVANS
211 SCANDIA ST., PO BOX 607, ALPHA, IL 61413

Volume 2013 Issue 11

Shoes in Church

I showered and shaved adjusted my tie. I got there and sat in a pew just in time, bowing my head in prayer as I closed my eyes. I saw the shoe of the man next to me, touching my own. I sighed. With plenty of room on either side, I thought “Why must our soles touch?” It bothered me, his shoe touching mine, but it didn’t bother him much. A prayer began: ‘Our Father.....I thought, ‘This man with the shoes has no pride. They’re dusty, worn, and scratched. Even worse, there are holes on the side!’ ‘Thank You for blessings,’ the prayer went on. The shoe man said, a quite amen.’

I tried to focus on the prayer, but my thoughts were on his shoes again. Aren’t we supposed to look our best, when walking through that door? ‘Well, this certainly isn’t it, ‘I thought, glancing toward the floor. Then the prayer was ended and the songs of praise began. The shoe man was certainly loud. Sounding proud as he sang. His voice lifted the rafters his hands were raised high. The Lord could surely hear the shoe man’s voice from the sky. It was time for the offering and what I through in was steep. I watched as the shoe man reached into his pockets so deep. I saw what was pulled out and what the shoe man put in. Then I heard a soft ‘clink’ as when silver hits tin.

The sermon really bored me to tears, and that’s no lie. It was the same for the shoe man, for tears fell from his eyes. At the end of the service as is the custom here. We must greet new visitors, and show them all good cheer. But I felt moved somehow and wanted to meet the shoe man. So after the closing prayer I reached over and shook his hand. He was old and his skin was dark and his hair was truly a mess. But I thanked him for coming, for being our guest. He said, ‘My name’s Charlie, I am glad to meet you, my friend.’ There were tears in his eyes but he had a large, wide grin. ‘Let me explain,’ he said, wiping tears from his eyes. ‘I’ve been coming here for months and you’re the first to say, Hi.’ ‘I know that my appearance is not like all the rest but I really do try, to always look my best. ‘I always clean and polish my shoes, before my very long walk. But by the time I get here, they are dirty and dusty, like chalk.

My heart filled with pain and I swallowed to hide my tears. As he continued to apologize for daring to sit so near. He said, ‘When I get here I know I must look a sight. But I thought if I could touch you, then maybe our souls might unite.’ I was silent for a moment knowing whatever was said would pale in comparison. I spoke from my heart, not my head. ‘Oh, you’ve touched me,’ I said, ‘And taught me in part that the best of any man is what is found in his heart.’ The rest, I thought, this shoe man will never know. Like just how thankful I really am that his dirty old shoe touched my soul.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we always must thank God for you, brothers and sisters who are loved by God. This is because he chose you from the beginning to be the first crop of the harvest. This brought salvation, through your dedication to God by the Spirit and through your belief in the truth.

Serving Him and You! Pastor Terry.

**Church Council
Members:**

Chair: Dale Lanning

Vice Chair: Mary Nice

Lay Leader: Eddie Bradshaw

Trustee Chair: Ed Schultz

Treasurer: Dean Kernan

SPPRC Chair: Eddie Bradshaw

Men in Mission: Dean Kernan

UMW Chair: Mary Nice

Christian Ed: Cathy Jordan

Sunday School Supt: Deb Briggs

Youth Rep: Sabrina Medley

Nurture Chairs: Deb Briggs
Renee Young

Outreach Chair: Lindi Kernan

Worship Chair: Linda Lanning
Recording Secretary: Linds
Brooks

Annual Conference Delegate:
Lindi Kernan

Pastor: Terry Evans

November is Pack the Pantry month.
Please bring items for the Food Pantry each Sunday
and place them on the Altar.

Let's be thankful and share our blessings with others.

Canned goods
Cereal
Sugar
Flour
Mac and cheese
Spaghetti noodles and sauce
NO paper products needed



Advent Season

**Time to decorate
the Church &
Sanctuary!**

**Saturday, Nov. 30th
9:00am**

Men in Mission Soup Supper

November 9th

5:00-7:00pm



Donations taken at the door for a meal
Includes: Soup with all the "fixins"
and one dessert per person
Added donation needed for
more than one dessert

Humility of Mary

Outreach will be collecting notebooks and pens for our friends at the Humility of Mary homeless shelter.

They will be using them to journal. We will need 100 notebooks and 100 pens. The notebooks can be 11 x 8.5, 9.5 x 6, or 7 x 5. Please leave on table in fellowship hall by November 19. Please consider joining us at the shelter this month. It's a wonderful time!

Youth Fundraiser

AUMC Youth are pleased to announce one of the easiest fundraisers ever! We are participating in Great Lakes Scrip (Gift Card) Program. This on-going fundraiser will offer gift cards to many of your favorite retailers just in time for the holidays! In addition, you can purchase gift cards to use for your weekly Wal-Mart, Target, CVS/Walgreens, gas and restaurant trips. It's a WIN/WIN opportunity! Why not help out our youth program while doing your routine shopping? More details to follow in upcoming bulletins and newsletters. If you have questions, please contact Annetta at arevans427@aol.com or 629-2709.



It's not too late to sign up! The Christmas Choir will begin rehearsals in October for their December Advent performances. Please sign up in the fellowship hall if you are interested, and Adrienne will contact you with rehearsal and performance information.

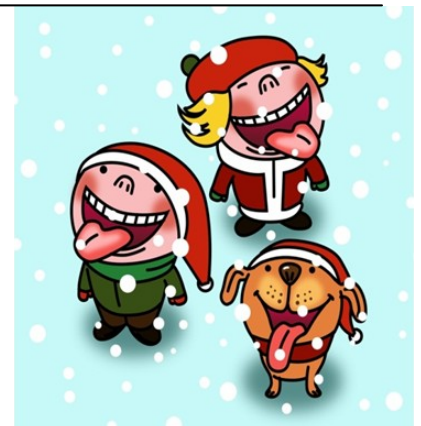
We are also looking for musicians/soloists – kids or adults - who would like to share their talents during the worship services. Please let Pastor Terry know when you would like to share with the congregation.

L.G.L.S. Christmas Program

Hey Kids! It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

This is your cue to join us in presenting a fabulous Christmas Program to our church family and the community.

We need your help! Like to sing? Like to act? Please let Annetta (arevans427@aol.com) or Deb Briggs know so you can be part of the fun.



USHERS

THIS MONTH

Bill & Tracy Harmon

November Liturgists: 3rd: Mary Nice 10th: Dale Lanning
17th: Sam Althaus 24th: Sarah Vortriede-Patton

November Birthdays:

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

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Nov 26th



November Anniversaries:

25: Ken & Phyllis Kearney

November Host & Hostess

03: Lannings
10: Need Volunteers
17: Need Volunteers
24: Need Volunteers

Mission Meal
Nov 10th

Community
Dinner
Nov 2nd

Worship Team
Tue, Nov 12th @ 6:30pm
November meeting change
Will be at 6:30pm instead of 5:30pm

alphaumc.org

Be sure to check out the church website!
There have been many updates done to
meet the needs of
our church family and community.
Please contact Lindsy Brooks if you want
anything added to it!

Humility of Mary

Wednesday, Nov 20th

We will be leaving the
church by 4:15.

The shelter is in need of
Notebooks and Pens

Sunshiners

Wed, Nov 6th at 6:45pm

Sharing: Lindi Kernan

Snack: Linda Lanning

Devotions: Angie Briggs



2013

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|-----|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 5:00–7:00pm Free Community Dinner |
| 3 6:30pm Book of James Bible Study | 4 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 5 | 6 6:45pm Sunshiners 6:30p Wolves & Bears | 7 AWANA “Patriot Night” 6:30-7:30pm | 8 | 9 5:00-7:00pm Men in Mission Soup Supper |
| 10 Mission Meal after Worship 6:30pm Book of James Bible Study | 11 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 12 6:30 Worship Team (<u>Note Change</u>) | 13 6:30p Wolves & Bears | 14 1:30 UWM AWANA “Crazy Hair” 6:30-7:30pm | 15 | 16 5:30pm Community Volunteer Appreciation Meal |
| 17 6:30pm Book of James Bible Study | 18 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 19 7:00pm Church Council | 20 4:15pm Humility of Mary 6:30p Wolves & Bears | 21 AWANA “Joyful Music” 6:30-7:30 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 7:00am Men in Mission 5:30pm Youth Group | 25 6:30pm Boy Scouts | 26 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u> | 27 6:30p Wolves & Bears | 28 HAPPY THANKS- GIVING NO AWANA | 29 | 30 9:00am Decorating Church |

SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH THE WORLD

ALPHA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Terry Evans, Pastor

Sunday Schedule:

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

10:00 A.M. Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall

10:30 A.M. Worship Service



Have you visited our new Web site?
Lindi Brooks is the creator and manager of our Website.
Our Web address is alphaumc.org



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