



CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THE CROSS CONNECTION

309 E. Spring Street
New Albany, IN 47150

Office Hours:
Mon., Wed., Thurs.
9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Fri. 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
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Sunday

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Free Meal 4:30 p.m.

Monday

Ladies Exercise 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Food Pantry 10am—2pm
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Choir Practice 7:30 p.m.

Thursday

Free Meal 6:00 p.m.
Ladies Exercise 6:30 p.m.

Inside This Issue:

Financial Moments	4
Kids Page	5
United Methodist Men / Choir	6
Mission News	7
United Meth. Men Agenda	8
History Page	9
Worship Volunteers	10



Nov/Dec 2011



From the
Pastor

ALL HALLOW'S EVE

Some of you may have come to this newsletter looking for the next installment of our series on what we believe. However, given the timing of this newsletter, I thought we would step out of that series this time around. We will try to look at what we believe about the Holy Spirit, next time. - For now, I thought we would take a look at All Hallow's Eve, otherwise known as Halloween.

A few years ago, during a time of family devotions, we were talking about the "PACT" form of prayer: Praise, Ask, Confess, and Thank. In the devotion we were reading, we were also asked to read the Lord's Prayer, and then the lesson asked which part of the Lord's Prayer fit each letter of PACT.

The very first one, of course was Praise, and Bobbie asked what part of the Lord's Prayer was praise. Well, I immediately raised my hand and said, "I know, I know." And so, Bobbie called on me. Do you know which part of the Lord's Prayer is considered praise? - "Our Father, who art in heaven; *Hallowed be thy Name.*" You see, in that prayer we are saying, "May your Name be hallowed."

Now, when I said that, one of our kids immediately asked, "What does hallowed mean? Is it like Halloween?" - What do you think? When we pray, "Hallowed be thy Name," is it like Halloween?

I think that question goes to the question that is often asked in Christian circles, "What do we do with Halloween?" - You know, when I was a kid, our church used to have Halloween parties every year. We used to hold it out in the woods at the Optimist Club building. It was a great time. I remember going, and our family arrived early one year. It was the year that I

Pastor's Message cont. on p. 2



was dressed up like the Incredible Hulk. I had a rubber Hulk mask and inflatable muscles. Anyway, because we arrived early, we split up and hid. I think I hid behind a tree in the surrounding woods. Then we would each one “arrive” at different times, so as to help disguise who we really were. One year I was Scooby Doo. (That was before I could do the Scooby Doo voice. If you haven’t heard me do that voice, you’ll have to ask me some time.) We had a really great time.

However, as time went by, I encountered Christians at other churches (even within the same denomination) who would never do such a thing. From their perspective, Halloween was an evil, even Satanic celebration. It was to be avoided completely.

Some suggested Christian alternatives, sometimes called Hallelujah Parties, instead of Halloween Parties. These ranged from events where you could dress up, so long as there were no monsters, or evil costumes, to events where you could only dress as Bible characters, to no costumes allowed whatsoever. - And I learned never to assume anything about people’s position with regard to Halloween.

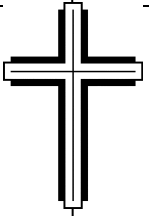
So it leaves us with the question, since there are a range of opinions, what ought we, as Christians, do about Halloween?

Well, when the question was asked, “What does hallowed mean? Is it like Halloween?” I said, “Actually, it is like Halloween.” - You see, to hallow is to make or to declare something or someone to be holy. We are saying to God, “Your name is holy.” - And Halloween is a form of All Hallow’s Evening, or All Hallow’s Eve; Hallowe-‘en. In other words it is the evening before All Hallow’s Day, or All Holy One’s Day, which we know as . . . All Saints’ Day. All Saints’ Day is celebrated on November 1st or the first Sunday, thereafter. Centenary will be observing All Saints’ Day this first Sunday of November (and Ann Thomas will be preaching! You won’t want to miss that service!) - All Saints, by the way, was one of John Wesley’s favorite days.

Now, since that is the case, it should at least make Christians stop and consider a bit before we simply declare Halloween to be evil and Satanic. - But, of course there is more to the story. - So, how did Halloween come about with all of our costumes and customs?

Well, in Ireland, the ancient Druids, prior to the arrival of Christianity, marked the coming of the new year on November 1st. Like so many groups, their calendars were governed by the seasons of the year, especially the times of harvest. Around November the season would change from the time of harvest to winter; that is, to the time when things died.

October 31st was called Samhain (often pronounced SOW-in), the Celtic word for the end of Summer. In their Pagan superstitions they believed that on October 31st, the end of the year and the beginning of the time of death, the curtain between the living and the dead became blurred. On this night, it was believed that the ghosts of the dead would return to this world.



This was their reasoning: When the dead are buried, they are buried under the ground. During the Summer months, the grass is green and alive, the flowers bloom, the trees are full of life, and they are, therefore, able to keep the dead buried. But when the trees and flowers all die, and the grass turns brown, what is there to keep the dead buried? They are, therefore, able to escape . . . at least for that one night.

Well, in addition to damaging crops, it was believed that these spirits made it easier for the Druid priests to see into the future so that they could determine whether the crops would survive the winter, etc. Therefore, they would have a ritual of sorts involving a large bonfire, burning crops and animal sacrifices while wearing disguises (like animal costumes), which would confuse and ward off any *evil* spirits.

Now, by the ninth-Century, as the Church spread throughout the land, the Church did what the Church has always done. It sought to appropriate and redeem, or transform and sanctify the secular or the Pagan. It sought to “redeem the time” or the day, as St. Paul says, and claim it for Christ. And here is how the Church went about it:

Early on, it was the custom of the Church to remember the Martyrs. - As early as the 4th century the Church in the East held a feast to honor all of the martyred saints, together. On May 13, 610, relics of martyrs were moved from some catacombs to the Pantheon, and the bishop of Rome, Pope Boniface IV consecrated the building with the title of the feast of All Martyrs and All Saints and Our Lady.

Now, fast forward to the ninth-Century, again, when the Church had spread throughout the Celtic land. It was in 835 that the new bishop of Rome, Pope Gregory III, designated November 1st as All Saints Day, many believe in an attempt to Christianize the Celtic holiday. Thus, Samhain became All Hallow’s Eve, or Halloween. - By the way, we also know that by A.D. 1000, there were parades and bonfires and people dressed in costumes of saints and angels, etc. in order to honor and celebrate those saints who had died in the faith.

Now, in America, the Puritan settlers didn’t want anything to do with those Pagan, and more importantly foreign customs. But, when Irish immigrants came over, in such a new setting, their customs began to take on new forms. So, any remaining Pagan elements of their customs quickly vanished. Bonfires were often replaced with candles in pumpkins. (I’ll not take time to go into the history of the Jack-O-lantern.) Animal disguises to ward off evil spirits became children’s costumes. And an American holiday was born.

So, those customs that the Church failed to transform the good ole’ American marketplace succeeded in secularizing. - Unfortunately, it has also had great success in secularizing such holy days as Christmas and Easter, as well. So much so that many Christians fail to observe the important season of Advent in preparation for Christmas, and then once Christmas Day ar-



rives, they are ready to pack everything away; thus, failing to celebrate the twelve days of the Christmas season. Oh, how we have allowed the secular marketplace to de-Christianize us! But that's another story for another time!

So with all of this in mind, what ought we to do with Halloween? First, respect the convictions of those around us. But, having said that, my opinion is, let the kids (and adults) have fun. And as a Church, use the opportunity to teach our children (and adults) about those who have gone before us in the faith.

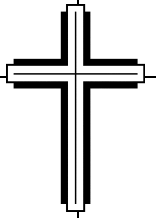
Now, in our post-modern, post-Christian age, with the resurgence of various spiritualities such as Wicca and Paganism, the Pagan versions of Samhain is experiencing a resurgence, at least in certain pockets of our population. But let us who are in Christ, join with St. Paul and the Church throughout the ages, and let us redeem the time for the glory of God!

FINANCIALS

Below are the financial results for September and October, 2011, with actual offering collections through October 23. Things did not improve in September, but did pick-up in October thanks to \$6,382.30 from the harvest Homecoming parking lot collections. Our **shortfall** grew in September, but decreased in October, now standing at **\$19,743.34**, down from \$23,191.78 in August. We still have two more Sundays in October to reduce that further. 2011 income continues to lag behind 2010 by \$10,000 and expenses continue to be stay ahead of the 2010 spending level, now by \$4,498.59. Unfortunately, if we do not find ways to increase income on November and December, we will again have to withdraw from our savings just to keep paying the bills. We **can make a difference** if we put our minds to improving. We are in the process of setting the 2012 budget, which will be a challenge. Let's continue to look at ways to increase ministries in 2011 and trust in God to provide the funds needed to support our budget.

	SEPTEM- BER	YTD - 2011	YTD - 2010
Budget Income (Through September 30)	\$ 8,724.70	\$101,924.78	\$109,530.79
Budget Expenses (Through September 30)	11,180.48	125,905.51	120,652.76
Budget Income vs. Actual Expenses	(2,455.78)	(23,980.73)	(11,121.97)
	OCTOBER	YTD - 2011	YTD - 2010
Budget Income (Through October 23)	\$20,276.96	\$122,201.74	\$132,087.35
Budget Expenses (Through October 31)	16,039.57	141,945.08	137,446.49
Budget Income vs. Actual Expenses	4,237.39	(19,743.34)	(5,359.14)

Roger Ketterer
Treasurer



Give Praise

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, underline the word that doesn't belong. Then write the underlined words on the lines below.

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Give
Take
Grab | 2. peanut
praise
pear | 3. temple
house
LORD | 4. proclaim
past
present | 5. name
boy
lad | 6. ruin
destroy
make |
| 7. pine
acorn
known | 8. train
nations
bus | 9. done
donut
muffin | 10. Sing
Sleep
Yawn | 11. she
him
girl | 12. sun
praise
moon |
| 13. tell
fast
slow | 14. red
all
blue | 15. horrible
dreadful
wonderful | 16. acts
sisters
aunts | | |

" _____ to the _____ , _____ his _____ ;
 _____ among the _____ what he has _____ .
 _____ to _____ , sing _____ to him; _____ of _____ his
 _____ . " PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

Answers: 1. Give, 2. praise, 3. LORD, 4. proclaim, 5. name, 6. make, 7. known, 8. nations, 9. done, 10. Sing, 11. him, 12. praise, 13. tell, 14. all, 15. wonderful, 16. acts
 Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. (Psalm 105:1-2, NIV)

SIGN OF THANKFULNESS

Create this festive sign, which will serve as a yearlong reminder to be grateful.

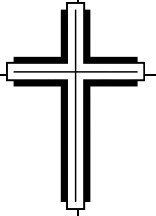
What you need:

- Hole punch
- Large piece of cardboard or cardstock
- Twine
- Twigs
- Glue
- Acorns, leaves (real or silk) and raffia

What you do:

1. Punch two holes in the top of the cardboard.
2. Thread twine through the holes and tie it in a knot (for hanging).
3. Using twigs, spell out "Be Thankful," "Thank God" or a similar phrase about gratitude. Glue the twigs onto the cardboard.
4. Decorate the sign by gluing on acorns, leaves and raffia.
5. Hang up your sign. Whenever you see it, think of something for which you're grateful to God.





FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT OF UNITED METHODIST MEN

Our Harvest Homecoming Parade Food booth cleared \$505.90 for our missions programs. Thanks to everyone that helped in any way. This was a good success, although not as good as last year. With this, we were able to donate \$400 to the Center for Women & Children.

Brother Byerley presented a good sermon, asking "Are you Listening" for Men's Sunday. The men of the choir had two special songs and men were the greeters, ushers, and liturgists. Thanks to all who participated.

Make sure you get your reservations in for our annual breakfast jazz program with Jamey Aebersold and Friends, Steve Crews, Jonathan Higgins, and Butch Neeld, on Saturday November 5, at 9:30 a.m. This is always a great program of cool jazz and a lot of fun. **Reservations are required to Roger Ketterer or the Church office by Wednesday, November 2.**

On Saturday, December 10, at 9:30 a.m., we will deliver fruit baskets to our shut-ins. This is always a great time to be able to meet and talk with those who are unable to get out to church as much as they use too. All men are encouraged to come. We can go in groups if enough men come.

Mark your calendar for our annual breakfast planning meeting on Saturday January 14, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Come out and help us plan 2012.

As another year closes out, it is time to reflect back on another year. This year has been an exceptional year of activities, some new, some annual events. Many people were involved in the planning and participating in the events. This would all not be possible without each and everyone of you. We were able to support our two local missions, S. Ellen Jones and the Center for Women and Children, as well as our sponsored child in the Philippines. We now look forward to 2012 and another year of exciting activities for everyone in the church. Plan on joining us.

Remember, this is **YOUR** United Methodist Men's group. It is not the same without **YOU**.

LET'S STRIVE TO PLEASE GOD IN HEAVEN IN 2011

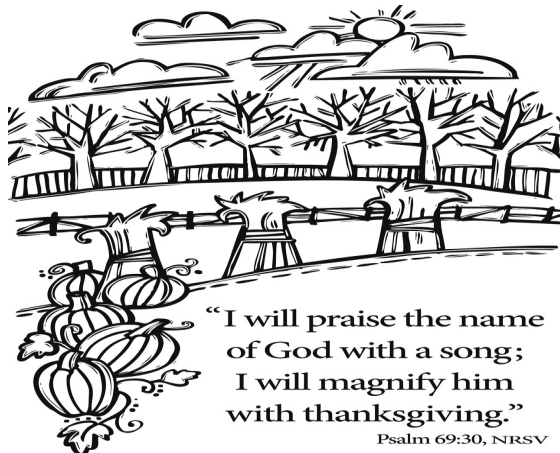
Roger Ketterer

Choir Notes



The choir is looking forward to the coming Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

We have several new anthems that we anticipate you will enjoy almost as much as we enjoy singing them.



"I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving."

Psalm 69:30, NRSV



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Centenary Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry is open on Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
The food pantry served 150 households (414 people) in October. Year-to-date, the Pantry has helped 1,953 households.

The Food Pantry needs Ramen noodles, saltine crackers, canned meats and Mac & Cheese.

Christ's Kitchen

Christ's Kitchen provides a free meal every Sunday at 4:30 p.m. and every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Eleven local churches help provide the meals for people who are seeking fellowship and a meal. The member churches include Atkins Chapel UMC, Jacobs Chapel UMC, Northside Christian, Culbertson Baptist, Centenary UMC, Stony Point Christian, Christ UMC, Parkway Southern Baptist Church, Canton Christian, and Faithpoint UMC.

In October Christ's Kitchen served 794 meals. They have consistently served 700 or more meals a month for this year. To date, they have served 7,516 meals to more than 5,320 people.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone that participated this year in Operation Shoebox. At time of publication we did not have our final count. As soon as it is available, I will make an announcement. We will be able to track our boxes again this year! Take a few moments to pray for the child and their family that will be introduced to Jesus Christ through the generosity of a shoebox. What a difference we are making in the world. God Bless.

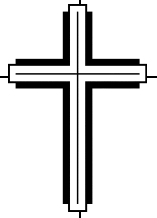


Operation Santa Claus

Centenary will again be working with Interfaith Community Council to provide gifts for needy children in our community. Tags should be available before Thanksgiving. Please see Holly Braden to adopt a gift.

Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.

UNITED METHODIST MEN



UMM 2011 PROGRAM AGENDA

LET'S STRIVE TO PLEASE GOD IN HEAVEN IN 2011

2011 Mission Programs: Center for Women & Families; S. Ellen Jones Elementary

MAY 14 – Saturday – 12 Noon – Mother’s Day Luncheon – Speaker will be Bob Hill. Catering by Rib’s for Kids. **Reservations are due to Roger Ketterer or the Church office by Wednesday, May 11.** A freewill offering will be taken to cover expenses and provide funding for the Rib’s for Kids program.

June 17 – Friday Night – 7:05 p.m. - Southern Indiana Night at the Bats Game – Bats Vs. Toledo Mud Hens - This will just be for Centenary and friends this year. Cost will be \$5.00. Postgame fireworks and special giveaways during the game. **Reservations are due to Roger Ketterer or the Church office by Friday, June 10.**

June 25—Saturday—10:30 a.m. Falls of the Ohio Park—On June 25th we will have something for the kids and grandkids, and those adults that love an exploring adventure. Phil Asher will lead us on a tour of the Falls of the Ohio Park. This was postponed from the April 30th date due to high river levels. Cost will be \$5 for the park admission. Bring a picnic lunch for after the tour. **A general count is needed by Wednesday, June 15th to Phil Asher or the Church office.**

JULY 23 – Saturday – 6:00 p.m. – Annual Ice Cream Social – The Centenary Choir will sing for your evening’s entertainment. Enjoy homemade ice cream and cookies while you relax in cool comfort. This is one of our major fund raisers of the year. A freewill offering will be taken to help our missions programs.

AUGUST 14 – Sunday – 11:30 a.m. - Family Event Outing to Historic Slow Poke Farm – Slow Poke farm is located in Shepherdsville , KY. We will leave after church and car pool for lunch. It is only about a 30 – 40 minute ride the farm. **Reservations are due to Roger Ketterer or the Church office by Wednesday, August 10.**

SEPTEMBER 10 – Saturday - 9:00 A.M. – Breakfast Planning Meeting at Church – We will have breakfast and plan for the Harvest Homecoming Parade food booth and the Jamey Aebersold breakfast program.

OCTOBER 1 – Saturday – 9:00 a.m. - Harvest Homecoming Parade Food Booth – Our major fundraiser for the year for our missions programs

OCTOBER 16 – Men’s Sunday – Brother Dan Byerley to speak with special Men’s music.

NOVEMBER 5 – Saturday – 9:30 a.m. - Jamey Aebersold, Steve Crews, Butch Neeld, & Jonathan Higgins for breakfast concert. – Continental breakfast prepared by Northern Lights Extension Homemakers Club. **Reservations due by Wednesday November 2 or 9, depending on final date, to the Church office or Roger Ketterer.** A freewill offering will be taken to cover expenses.

DECEMBER 10 – Saturday – 9:30 a.m. - Distribution of fruit baskets to shut-ins

JANUARY 14 - Saturday—9:00am - Annual breakfast planning meeting for UMM. Come help plan our program for 2012.

HISTORY LESSON—ALLEEN SCANLON



ATTITUDE

by Charles Swindoll

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me,
is more important than facts.
It is more important than the past,
than education,
than money,
than circumstances,
than failures,
than success,

than what other people think or say or do.

It is more important than appearance,
giftedness or skill.

It will make or break a
company a church a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice
everyday regarding the attitude we will
embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past
we cannot change the fact that people will
act in a certain way.

We cannot change the inevitable.
The only thing we can do is play on the one
string we have, and that is our attitude

I am convinced that life is 10%
what happens to me
and 90% how I react to it.
And so it is with you

Grandpa's Bounty

He lined us up, side by side
Four little grandchildren in a row, We
Shared his meager bounty
with a wondrous childish glow.

Grandma knew this was his day
So she joined the "lineup" too.
"He's just a child at heart, you know
So let his light shine through."

Grandpa smiled and called our names
As we stood side by side
The fact that Christmas Day was here
Brought joy he could not hide.

We held the pencil and the orange
And Christmas candy in a sack,
Oh, what lovely presents
For June and me and Gene and Jack.

We ran and hugged Grandpa
And little did we know
This would be his last Christmas
"cause we all loved him so.

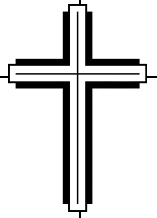
Now Grandma says she know he's fine
As side by side the angels stand,
Joyfully sharing Grandpa's bounty
Christmas Candy in the Promised Land.

*Dedicated to Grandfather John Nelson Drew
who died December 31, 1939.*

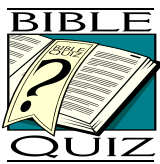
**Happy Thanksgiving
and
Merry Christmas**

Alleen Scanlon

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS



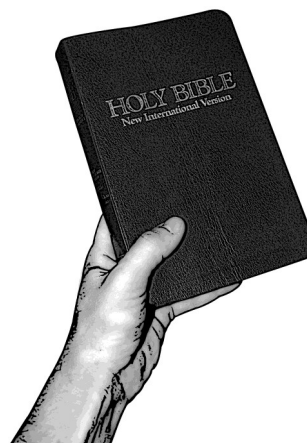
Date	Liturgists	Greeters	Ushers
11/6	Sue Hersman Phil Asher	David Braden Holly Braden	Martha Cooley Marie Vass
11/13	Carolyn Wells Bob Wells	Vickie Casey Blanche Allen	Jamey Aebersold Harold Kron
11/20	Lois Ketterer Roger Ketterer	Martha Cooley Marie Vass	Lana Aebersold Lois Ketterer
11/27	Marie Vass Mary Ann Sollberger	Mary Ann Sollberger Annis Wiseman	Carl Platt Nancy Platt
12/4	Lana Aebersold Ann Baumgartle	Mel Johnson Molly Johnson	Vickie Casey Mel Johnson
12/11	David Braden Holly Braden	Carl Platt Nancy Platt	David Braden Holly Braden
12/18	Ron Mattson Libby Mattson	Sara Aebersold Jamey Aebersold	Darrell Bensing Madonna Bensing
12/25	Ann Thomas Bobbie Stepp	Bill Cochran Vickie Casey	Martha Cooley Marie Vass
1/1/12	Dan Byerley Stephanie Bensing	Mel Johnson Molly Johnson	Vickie Casey Amanda Rusk




Bible Quiz

Some churches observe National Bible Week in November. According to 2 Timothy, which of the following are ways that God intends for us to use Scripture?

- A. Teaching and training in righteousness
- B. Equipping God's children for good works
- C. Reproof and correction
- D. All of the above



Answer: D. (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

 Centenary United Methodist Church
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New Albany, IN 47150

 THE CROSS
CONNECTION

*The deadline for submitting newsletter articles
is the 15th of the month before publishing.*

Join Us at
Advent Worship

