

AUGUST 2011

REYNOLDS NEWS WRAP

Reynolds United Methodist Church

2496 Reynolds Road
Ashton, IL 61006

PASTOR ALAN MEYER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Letter	2
Prayer Concerns	3
Serving in August	3
Committee Reports	4-6
Getting to Know You	6
Up-coming events	8



Back to School

The first Reynolds Church Service was held at the Wiener School in 1864. The first church building was built in 1871. The 2nd church building was built in 1909 (present building).



REYNOLDS CHURCH FACTS

REYNOLDS PARSONAGE

- 1885 - FIRST PARSONAGE BUILT
- 1922 - PARSONAGE REBUILT, COST: \$2,600
- 1964 - NEW 2 CAR GARAGE BUILT
- 1986 - SOUTH PORCH ENCLOSED
- 1988 - GARAGE ATTACHED TO PARSONAGE

REYNOLDS CELEBRATIONS

- 1923 - 50TH ANNIVERSARY
- 1947 - 75TH ANNIVERSARY
- 1964 - 100TH ANNIVERSARY
- 1966 - SUNDAY SCHOOL 100TH ANNIVERSARY
- 1974 - 110TH ANNIVERSARY
- 2007 - 143 YEAR CELEBRATION

OTHER MISCELLENOUS FACTS:

- Outside Bulletin Board installed in 1958- given in memory of Charles Becker
- 1968 - New Baldwin Piano -given in memory of Harry Kersten
- 1971 - Outside Lighted Cross given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Henert
- 1987 - Cultured Stone placed on the chancel walls. In memory of Helen Becker

(Taken from Historical facts by Ruth Burhenn)



The most important thing in the world is not to know the Lord's will but to know the Lord. Then to share His will with others .

Dear Member's and Friends of Reynolds UMC,

Some of you may be expecting a note about my vacation this summer. In a way, that's what you're about to read, but it's more than that!

I had a chance to step away from our church, and from our ministry. My time away and time in prayer gave me a new perspective and a new desire to focus on my mission as a pastor and our church's mission in our community. You may have heard the word "missional" before. It's a word that church leaders are using to describe an outward movement in congregations. Missional churches don't wait for the community to come to them. They go out into the community. They live in faith and courage. They find ways to do what they're called to. And they have fun doing it!

Reynolds has many of the elements of a missional church. Still, our transformation process needs to continue. "Greater things are yet to come." Greater things are still to be done in this community... Greater things are still to be done here at Reynolds." As Christians we must always remember what Paul tells us in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." We can do anything that God calls us to do because God will give us the strength. In months ahead we need to ask ourselves two questions so: "Am I willing to do what it takes to reach out to God's children in our community?", and "Will we as a church do what it takes to reach out to God's children in our community?" It may be difficult. It may be expensive. It may require many hours of effort from ALL of our church family. Will the Holy Spirit lead us to go "all in" as a missional church? If so, what will that look like?

Keep praying and get ready for an adventure!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Al



6 yr old Emma, 7 yr old Molly & Family, Baby Molly, Bill and Barbara Uphoff, David Foster, Debbie VanDyke, Ellen Clark's cousin; Families who have recently lost loved ones, Gene & Joyce Brake, Jim Steder, Karen Harris, Karen Yocum's brother (Jim), Keith Long, Leila Place, Margaret Ann Reif, Members of the Armed Services, Mike Olmstead, Neva Becker, Pastor Al & Linda Meyer, Terry Hunley, The Unemployed, Tyler Thompson.



SERVING IN AUGUST:

Communion Steward: Kathy Brown

Ushers: Duane Ackland, Jason Pfeiffer, Vernon Gittleston, Adam Cappel

**Greeters: August 7th– Rich & Stacie Vogeler,
August 14th & 21st– Jeff & Laura Pfeiffer
August 28th—Dennis & Karen Yocum**

Flowers: Linda Meyer or Lynnette Lawrence

Church Hostess: Lois Heimbaugh

<u>Date</u>	<u>Children's Moment</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
August 7	Kathy Clark	Help Needed
August 14	Pastor Al Meyer	Kathy Brown
August 21	Kathy Becker	Help Needed
August 28	Lois Heimbaugh	Help Needed

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lawn Mowing</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
August 7	Bob Heimbaugh	TBA	Lois Heimbaugh
August 14	Ed Uphoff	Uphoffs	Kathy Brown
August 21	Jerry Lawrence	TBA	Frances Cappel
August 28	Bill Kirchhofer	TBA	Kathy Becker

August Mission Project: **Support for Local Families**

Bring Mission Offerings on the 4th Sunday (August 28th)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee:

by Rhonda Brown, Chair. I would like to thank the following people for all their help to make VBS the huge success it was:

First and foremost, I want to thank God for answered prayers of having more than enough volunteers.

Kathy Becker, Sue Bertenshaw, Morgan Bertenshaw, Frances Cappel, Kathy Clark, Leslie Gittleson, Nancy Gittleson, Allana Gittleson, Lexi Headon, Maja Headon, Lois Heimbaugh, Brooke Horner, Dusty Horner, Cindy Knight, Walker Knight, Susan Foster, Jerry Lawrence, Lynnette Lawrence, Grace Ann Lloyd, Kristy Murphy, Sawyer Murphy, Tina Phipps, Keith Roop, Audrey Roop, Jane Rueff, Gerri Underhile, Paula Vogeler, Stacie Vogeler, Jenni Winterland, Caitlin Spohn, Jamie Arntzen, Mitch Meurer, Anna Hilleson, Kim Mairs, Troy Mairs, Kyle McClanahan, Riley Jensky, Calvin Jahn, Emily Shrimplin, Jenna Thompson, Gary Brown, Shannon Brown, Kathy Brown, Linda Meyer, and Pastor Al (aka Joseph). Thank you for all your hard work. I appreciate all of you more than I can say! You are my God sightings!

I also want to thank all the kids who attended and their parents. There were about 43 children who came and celebrated with us.

Safe Sanctuary Committee:

by Rhonda Brown, Chair

Once again I had not planned to write another article on bullying. In fact I was not planning to write an article at all for this issue because my daughter, Kathy, wrote one for the Youth section that is a perfect follow-up on my last two articles. However, I was encouraged to write an article as well, so I am.

When I was deciding what information I should include, I thought I would tell you about what steps you can take if your child is being bullying. But as I continued to think about what to write, there was a voice telling me that is not the information that I should share. I think that it is more important to share with you my story as a parent, an advocate, and as a Christian.

In order to give you a better understanding, I need to give you some background on myself. I worked in social services for 19 years before I quit 2 years ago so I could deal with the bullying problem. Most of my experience has been in Domestic Violence, including one year of teaching the anti-bullying curriculum to elementary students. I also have experience in child welfare and working with the homeless. All my experience did help prepare me in handling the situation with Kathy, but not as much as one might think. Nor as much as even I thought it would.

As a parent one can imagine what it feels like. We were not able to protect our child no matter what we tried. I felt like I was losing her, and in a way I did for a while. Our relationship suffered greatly because of everything she went through. It was by the grace of God that I didn't lose her. It is also by His grace that she and I are able to rebuild our relationship.

As an advocate, I was also devastated. I had always felt I was good at my job, and I could usually connect with the clients. I usually received positive feedback from co-workers and supervisors to reinforce those feelings. During the time we were dealing with the bullying I started questioning everything. If I wasn't able to protect my own child, then what kind of advocate was I really? I was filled with guilt, anger, and frustration. My confidence in my ability has been shaken, especially now that I am actively seeking employment again. I don't know if I will be able to continue in Social Services or not, but I honestly don't know what else I would do. Being an advocate has always been a big part of who I am, and now I am afraid.

The ironic thing is that while so much of my life was falling apart around me, my faith has grown so much in the last couple of years. I have always believed, even if I questioned things, I still believed. However my walk with Christ has never been what it should be. At first it was because I never felt like I could be good enough to get into heaven (thanks to some old teachings). Then it was because I never fully understood how to have that kind of relationship with Jesus. I thought of God and Jesus more in the abstract, and not someone to have a relationship with. That has all changed now. I still have a ways to go in the building and trusting relationship, but I am

(continued from Page 4)

closer than I have ever been. It was just like some of the sermons I listened to. When things are going good, then we tend to forget God, or feel that we don't need him. Then when things turn for the worst, we start questioning, begging, pleading . . . I have done this. A recent daily devotion recommended that if you want forgiveness, then just confess your sins to God, but if you want to be healed, then confess them to someone else (Rick Warren 7/10/11). So I'm confessing to you. One of my sins is pride. In all honesty I did not just believe I was good at my job, I was pretty arrogant about it. Not in the sense that I was conceited to others, but that I thought I could save almost everyone, and that I didn't need God's help to do it. I thought I knew the best way to use my gifts he had given me. I was so wrong. Now when I start feeling arrogant, I just have to look at my daughter and remember that I couldn't save her on my own. It has been a humbling experience. But that is what it took for me to start listening and really seeking God. It was when I was at my lowest point and so desperate for answers that I cried out to God and told Him that I needed to experience what I have heard others talk about. I needed to really know He was there for me, and I needed to feel His loving arms around me right then. He responded by wrapping His arms around me. I could feel Him there with me. That is when I knew we were going to make it through everything. Now I give the glory to God instead of myself. The other sin I am confessing is forgiveness. I admit I am not there yet. I am struggling a lot with that one. In my talks with God, I have to ask for His patience because I am not there yet. I also asking for His strength and guidance because I want to be able to forgive the ones who have hurt my daughter and the ones who failed to protect her. Mostly I need to know how to forgive myself.

I love both of my girls very much. I know they aren't perfect, but I do learn some valuable lessons from them. Shannon is teaching me to be proud of who we are-even if most people don't quite understand who that is. Kathy is teaching me about forgiveness. If you read her article you will begin to understand how she is doing it. But the most valuable lesson she taught me came after one of our many mother/daughter arguments. She asked me if I could go back and change things, would I. I answered "Of course I would!!!" I would do a better job of protecting her and do more to stop the bullying and I would have...should have...and could have... She stopped me, looked me straight in the eye and asked me why. Why would I change things when that was God's plan? She continued to say that everything happens for a reason. She doesn't know what God has planned for her, but she is sure it will be great. Everything she has been through has made her who she is today, and if I go back and change things, then it would change who she is. She doesn't want to change who she is because she likes who she is, and God doesn't make junk! That is the kind of faith I am aspiring to have.

I don't know what God has planned for me. I do

know that writing these articles are a part of His plan. I also know that it was part of His plan to have Pastor Al and Linda to come into my life to help prepare me, to encourage me, and to get me more involved in the church. God has used them to help me find my voice.

If you or someone you know is being bullied or abused in some way other way, talk to someone. You are not alone. If you would like the resources and information I have on bullying or on abuse in general, then please contact the church. They know how to reach me. I can e-mail you the information. The violence must stop!!

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vernon Gittleston, Chair

The Finance Committee met on July 18th, and discussion centered around:

- Those who are authorized to sign on behalf of the church on church bank accounts.
- Financing windows for the parsonage.
- Financing involved to provide better water pressure for both the church and the parsonage.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Nancy Eggers, Chair

The Committee is looking for people who enjoy "big picture thinking" and have a heart for both -missions and children- to participate on a steering committee for Hot Lunches for Haiti. Contact Nancy Eggers ASAP to join.

NURTURE COMMITTEE

By Kathy Clark, Chair

WATCH YOUR MAILBOX!! The Nurture Committee is working on our 'all church picnic' which will be held on August 14th. You won't want to miss this fun event. All details will be in your invitation and also in the church bulletin.

STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

By Frances Cappel, Chair

The Committee met for a regular meeting on July 19th. Next meeting is Tuesday, August 9th, 2011 at 7:00 pm. Discussion will be about salaries for the 2012 Budget.

YOUTH REPORT

BY Kathy Brown

I learned a lot at camp this year. A main theme was learning how to forgive and forgiving. You never know what someone else is going through so don't judge them for their behavior or actions., but forgive them. And always, always think: What would Jesus do? -WWJD?, before you act.

For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night but rejoicing comes in the morning. *Psalm 30:5*

"Everybody falls sometimes, Gotta have the strength to rise." That is from the song, 'What Faith Can Do,' by the band "Kutless."

Everybody falls sometimes. Everybody makes mistakes. We need to learn to forgive them and forget the mistake they made. If somebody hurts you, forgive them, the pain can go away and you can start to forget when you do. You

(continued from Page 5)

may not want to forget or forgive, but you need to. Try looking at their side, and try to see why they did what they did, and you may be able to forgive them. No one is perfect. Not even Christians. So we need to stop holding grudges, start forgiving, and welcome people back with open arms. Let the past go. You CAN'T change it, and you don't need to. It was part of God's plan; He had a reason for it, only God needs to know that reason. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you." His plan makes you the person you are today. It made me the person I am, And I'm thankful for it. You should be thankful for who you are too. Don't ruin friendships. Don't push people away. Forgive them. You don't even have to say to their face, "I forgive you," but tell yourself and tell God. You may be thinking that I don't know hurt or pain, and I don't know what you're going through. You're right on half of that. I don't really know what you are going through, but I have felt a lot of hurt and pain. I have felt enough hurt and pain that people don't know how I forgive the one that caused the most pain. But I do. With God's help, looking at every side, and thinking it all through. People in church have made me feel more loved than some of my own family members have at times. My mom has told you in some of her articles that we need to reach out to other youth, and we need to make a difference. I completely agree with that, but we also need to reach out to other adults. — especially past and present church members. They could be hurting, and by not reaching out and trying to understand, we are letting them down. Remember when you and the other church members got along so well? Don't you want that back? So let's Forgive; Forget; Save, Renew, and Create Friendships before it's too late. Tomorrow is promised to no one. And because it's the right thing to do.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Name: Morgan Bertenshaw

Nick Name: Moe

Birthday : 2-13-99

Home town: Creston, IL

Parent's names: Sue and Bob

Siblings: Peyton (7-1/2), Lauren (5), Mason (3)

School Attending & Grade: Creston Elementary 7th

Favorite School Subject: Computers & Math

Hobbies: Cheer, Volley ball, Basketball

Favorite Food: Tri-colored pasta

Favorite Place to eat out: DQ

Pets: Dog -Mya

Favorite time of day: Afternoon

Why : It's the middle of the day and the funnest part of the day.

Favorite Movie: Mr. Popper's Penguins

Favorite Adults in your life: Grandma Nancy, Mom, Dad, & Grandpa Rich

What do you hope to do in your adult life:

Be a Vet!

+++++

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Name: Shawn Townsend

Nick Name: Chunkers

Birthday: 7-20-04

Home town: Ashton

Parents Names: Jack & Jamie

Siblings: Daniel 10, Walker 11, Kimberly 8,

Jessica 6

School Attending & Grade: AFC Elementary—2nd

Favorite School Subject: Gym

Hobbies: Riding bikes, playing video games

Favorite Food: Apples

Favorite Place to 'Eat Out' -Chinese Buffet

Pets: Dog— Baby

Favorite Time of Day: Noon

Why: Lunch time.

Favorite Movie: Cars

Favorite Adult in Your Life: Dad

What do you hope to do in your adult life? Cop

We have another opportunity to let people know about Reynolds Church! August 6th and 7th is the Harvest Festival in Franklin Grove. We plan to have our float in the parade Saturday evening (6pm), and we can enter a team in the kickball tournament Sunday afternoon! Teams are made up of 10 people of ANY age so, let Cindy know if you would like to play. Entry fee is \$25, so if we get 10 people, that is only \$2.50 per person. What a fun way to let people know about Reynolds Church!

Also, please let Cindy know if you would be interested in a Reynolds church t-shirt. If there is enough interest, we will get a design together and get some. Thank you!

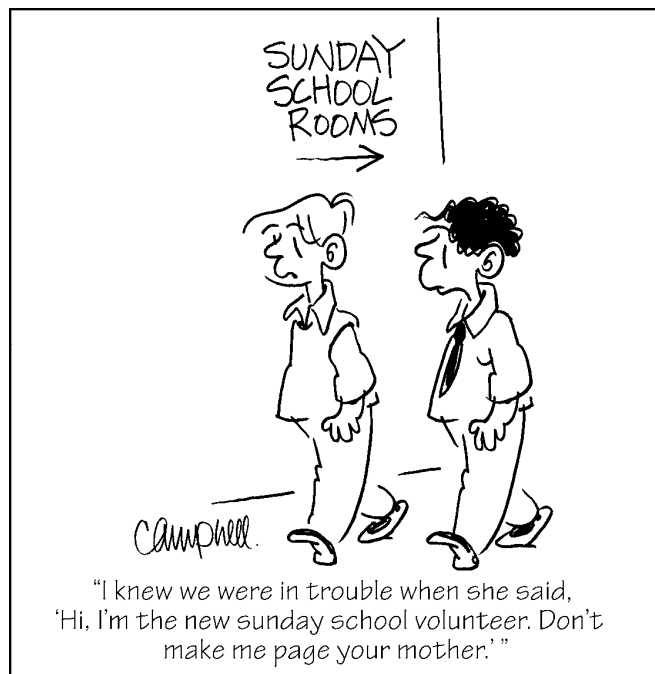
THE JOB OF THE CHURCH

What is the job of the Church? What is it to accomplish? The answer is found in the words of Jesus, the Founder and Head of the Church. Take some time to look briefly at what Jesus says the job of the Church is: Matthew 28:19-20; John 1:12; and Acts 1:8. From these statements we see that the job of the Church is to **tell everyone the good news of Jesus** and the new life that He offers us; to **make disciples**, that is, followers who live together according to His teachings; to **continue the ministry of Jesus on earth** and to be **His witnesses** to the world. II Corinthians 5:19-20 states these basic purposes well: "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us." God's ultimate purpose then is to reconcile us to Himself. So that we can fulfill God's purpose found in Romans 15:6, "that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.", and it has awesome, tremendous responsibilities and consequences. It has to do not only with people's bodies, but with their souls. It is a matter of life and death-eternal life or eternal death. In the next months I will be writing on the commitment and job of our Church officers.

(Submitted by Pastor Alan Meyer)

Life's Little Truisms

1. Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!
2. Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
3. Always read and do stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it!
4. Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
5. If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
6. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
7. It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
8. Never buy a car you can't push.
9. Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
10. Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
11. Remember the *second* mouse gets the cheese.
12. When everything's coming your way, you're probably in the wrong lane.
13. Birthday's are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
14. You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
15. Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.
16. We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull.
17. A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.





Reynolds United Methodist Church
2496 Reynolds Road
Ashton, IL 61006
(815) 453-2513

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 1st - 7:00 pm - Trustees Meeting**
- August 7th --- No Sunday School - Vacation Sunday**
 - 10:00 am - Worship/Communion**
- August 8th - 7:00 pm - Church Council**
- August 9th - 7:00 pm - SPRC meeting**
- August 14th - ALL CHURCH PICNIC**
- August 15th - NEWSLETTER REPORTS DUE**