

JULY 2011

REYNOLDS NEWS WRAP

Reynolds United

Methodist Church

2496 Reynolds Road

Ashton, IL 61006

PASTOR ALAN MEYER

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THE LIBERTY BELL IS AN ICONIC SYMBOL OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE, LOCATED IN PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, AND WAS CAST WITH THE LETTERING OF PART OF LEVITICUS 25.10. IT WAS ORIGINALLY CRACKED WHEN FIRST RUNG AFTER ARRIVAL IN PHILADELPHIA. BELLS WERE RUNG TO MARK THE READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 8TH, 1776, AND WHILE THERE IS NO CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNT OF THE LIBERTY BELL RINGING, MOST HISTORIANS BELIEVE IT WAS ONE OF THE BELLS RUNG.



Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. Heb. 10:23

Dear Reynolds UMC and Community,

Church I am convinced that we are living in a day and time when the world needs to hear about Jesus. It is up to all of us to go into “our” world and bring a word of encouragement, a word of healing, and a word of faith and hope to those around us. As I sit in this 172nd, Annual Conference, Ray Buckley’s words come alive. We are to have lives that reflect and shine God’s light through our lives. We need to practice more often in our lives the “calling” God has called all of us to. We need more than ever to reach out and impact the lives of everyone we meet. We need to take serious our covenants promises and how special it is to partake in The Sacrament of Holy Communion. Remembering always what God has done for us through his Son Jesus. I sat with tears as I heard about Alaskan and Canadian’s living on reservations that have not had Holy Communion or Baptisms in 40 years. How they long, how their hearts burn for pastor’s who are willing to serve. How they long to once again remember all that God has done. Church, more than ever we need to remember the work and love of God is for all people. It is up to all of us to share God’s Word and love to all people. When we live for God, we will see a difference in our lives—in our jobs, in our family, in our finances, and in not only our health but in the health of the church. Which leads me to ask: Are we as a Church giving back to God our best and thanks by sharing God’s love and Word? Or are we sitting on the sidelines and depending on others to give NOT only their time, money, gifts and faithfulness, but ours too. Waiting for God to accept us and use us. Church, we have all walked many miles, and our shoes have many holes in them. It is God who fills those holes, it is God who allows us to walk on to glory. Let us give away what God has blessed us with. Let us move on to perfection together by making a difference in our Church, Community, State, Country and world together. God will bless us and make us new. Let us be faithful to our journey together by taking time to pray and build ourselves up in the Word. Pray for doors to be opened to us and expect to meet people in need. Let us trust the Holy Spirit to give us the right words to say as we lay hands on the sick and hurting and expect them to be healed. There is much work to be done, but together, we can finish the work Jesus has begun. Our faith in God will always see us through, no matter what difficulty, no matter what the trial, and no matter what the circumstance. No matter how high that mountain seems to be, with God’s help, we can overcome it.

Strong faith won’t quit. It refuses to be silent.

Pastor Al



6 yr old Emma, 7 yr old Molly & family, Baby Molly, Bill & Paula Kunkel, Bill & Barbara Uphoff, Debbie VanDyke, Families who have recently lost loved ones, Gene & Joyce Brake, Jim Steder, Keith Long, Leon Gittleson, Margaret Ann Reif, Members of the Armed Services, Mike Olmstead, Molly Uphoff, Neva Becker, Pastor Al & Linda Meyer, Rod Haggard, Terry Hunley, The Unemployed, and Tyler Thompson.



SERVING IN JULY:

Communion Steward: Shannon Brown

Ushers: Richard Vogeler, Jeff Pfeiffer, Justin Rueff, Joe Phipps

**Greeters: July 3rd & 10th- Bertenshaw Family
July 17th & 24th - Duane Ackland**

Flowers: Linda Meyer or Lynnette Lawrence

Church Hostess: Frances Cappel

<u>Date</u>	<u>Children's Moment</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
July 3rd	Kathy Clark	Help Needed
July 10th	Pastor Al Meyer	Kathy Brown
July 17th	Cindy Knight	Help Needed
July 24th	Lois Heimbaugh	Help Needed
July 31st	Rhonda Brown	Kathy Brown

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lawn Mowing</u>	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>
July 3rd	Keith Roop	Lois & Bob Heimbaugh	Audrey Roop
July 10th	Help Needed	Youth	TBA
July 17th	Bob Cheeseman	TBA	TBA
July 24th	Bill Kirchhofer	TBA	TBA
July 31st	Bill Kirchhofer	TBA	TBA

July Mission Project: Children's Fund

Bring Mission Offerings on the 4th Sunday (July 24th)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee:

by Rhonda Brown, Chair. There will be a VBS meeting on Wednesday, July 6th at 6:30pm. Also, volunteers are still needed: one more song leader (to help Cindy Knight when she is unable to be there) one adult Celebration leader for the opening and closing each night; 6 to 8 high school volunteers to be group leaders (called Family Leaders); and someone to bring in a few animals for a petting zoo on the last night, and can stay and be responsible for the animals.

ALSO some supplies are needed: Brown paper lunch sacks and newspapers. Keep an eye on the bulletin for some additional supplies needed.

Safe Sanctuary Committee:

by Rhonda Brown, Chair

I honestly had planned to provide information on an issue other than bullying this month. However the day after I turned in the last newsletter article, I found an article on CNN.com regarding bullying, and I knew I needed to share it with you. Then last week there was a news story on WREX about a seminar which was held to discuss the issue of bullying and what can be done. I knew then that I really needed to address the issue again this month.

The CNN article was by Jodee Blanco. She is a former victim of bullying and now travels across the country speaking at schools about the bullying issue. She stated that she is often approached by parents who are seeking advice on how to help their child who is being bullied. I can understand how those parents feel, because I was that parent two years ago. I was looking for answers wherever I could get them. It was during that time I found out how common bullying really is and how difficult it is to stop.

Jodee Blanco was inspired to write the article because two eighth grade girls from MN killed themselves in a suicide pact because of bullying. They were best friends who decided that it was better to die than to continue to be tortured every day. She stated that many were asking themselves, "These girls

weren't alone, they had each other, why would they do this?" and wondering "Could this happen to my child?" As I sit here reflecting on Kathy's last two years of middle school, and how much she went through, I find myself asking this same question, could it have been her?

The article states that there are two kinds of bullying: overt (teasing, taunting, verbal and physical assault, intentional and aggressive exclusion, being laughed at and put down constantly, gossiped about, or cyber bullied), which is what most people think bullying is. But then there is "the invisible student", the kid who is treated as if he or she doesn't exist, who isn't necessarily intentionally excluded, but no one thinks to include.

It is important to know the danger signs of a bullied child in crisis:

- Inexplicable rage: Does your child blow up at the least provocation?
- Overreaction to normal, daily frustrations: Does your child overreact to people and situations that never would have bothered him or her before?
- Faking illness to avoid going to school, or even making themselves sick.
- Impaired immune system and frequent illness: The constant stress and sadness associated with severe bullying can weaken your child's immune system. This, coupled with a child's wishing he or she were sick to get out of school can be a powerful combination.
- Extreme makeover attempts: Has your child suddenly gone from preppie attire to all Gothic or punk? (For Kathy, she was always dressing up)
- Sudden change in weight: Has your child started gaining or losing weight at an alarming rate?
- Despondence or depression: Is your child sad, lonely and unmotivated?
- Changes in grades: has your child's grades gone down, or way up? *(cont. on page 5)*

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FINANCE COMMITTEE
Vernon Gittleson, Chair

Bullied kids sometimes immerse themselves in academics as an escape. But when they realize that even with straight A's, they're still lonely, they can spiral into a dark place.

- Desperate attempts to win friends: Has your child started to give in to peer pressure, perhaps engaging in questionable or self-destructive behavior that she or he would never have considered doing before?
- Moodiness: Is your child sullen one moment, obstinate the next?
- Distractedness: Is your child unfocused and preoccupied?

I can honestly answer yes to every one of these for Kathy.. The article went on to say that most parents' reaction is to get so caught up in mitigating the problem by contacting the school, confronting the parents of the bullies, pushing for punishment of the bullies, talking to the police, retaining legal counsel, that they forget to tend to their bleeding child first. It is strongly suggested in both articles that parents must find a new social outlet for their child. A place where he or she can engage in organized activity with other kids the same age and forge meaningful friendships completely outside of school. For Kathy it was you, the church, that helped her to feel accepted and loved. You helped give her confidence to try new things like the pageant and to audition for modeling. For her it wasn't about winning a crown or becoming a super model, it was about being accepted, building her confidence, and making new friends which she has accomplished. As I said before, you did this without realizing what you were doing. Imagine what we can do as a church for other children if we do know and we really try. I believe that you are one of the main reasons that my child isn't one of the children who thought dying was her only option, and I cannot thank you enough for that. So each month when you read the "Getting to Know You" articles, take the time to really get to know the children. Talk to them and more importantly --listen to them. Be a mentor or just another positive adult role model for them. Church may be the only place they feel accepted for who they are! Then we need to expand this beyond our doors to attempt to reach others in the community. I am so proud and excited about how we are trying to reach out by planning events and activities to invite others to come and be a part of something great and meaningful. Let's keep it up!

I didn't have a committee meeting as such, but called or talked to each one. I was concerned about the weekly offering not meeting the bills that we have outstanding. The offering has been down since the first of the year and has not improved to this point. So I asked them if I could take \$3,000 out of the savings to help pay the bills. They all agreed. That will help nearby, but not for long tem.

We did meet our goal on the siding project of \$35,000 much faster than we ever expected.

I do hope that the \$35,000 will cover it all, as the project was postponed one year because of illness. We all know prices are higher this year over last year.

Thanks to all who helped in any way.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Nancy Eggers, Chair

THE PEOPLE OF HAITI

Before going to Haiti it was easy for us to dismiss the people of Haiti as poor and lazy. It was easy to feel superior to people who are unemployed and poorly educated. It is easy to harshly judge mothers who abandon their babies to orphanages only to go out and have more babies.

Then we went to Haiti --we befriended Susanne and Charles, Pastor and Madam Kelly; Pastor Henri and Sister Gladys; loved on Deborah, Chevy, Lucinda and Caleb; worked along side Pastor Joel, Yolenne and Sister Rose, Robert and Jack; Naomi, Caroline and Elsie.

We listened with awe to personal stories of great struggles and tragedies; hope and dreams; and great courage and victories. **Mothers who walked with their babies for over 4 hours to keep their appointments at the medical clinic humbled us.** There is no public transportation, few people own cars or motorbikes. Diesel costs around \$8.00 per gallon. There are no public health services and those provided by charitable organizations are only found in towns. Folks living in the country have to walk long distances for their sick ones to be treated. **Women balancing 5 gallon buckets of water on their heads as they walked over rocky hillsides amazed us.** Drinking water can be found in the mountains, but there is no system to pipe clean, fresh water to the villages or homes. Open streams are frequently used for washing clothes, bathing, watering animals and sanitation so are not safe for drinking water. **Entrepreneurs who lined the sidewalks with blankets filled with wares or vegetables made us proud.** There is no public welfare system so if they didn't work, they wouldn't eat. Unemployment is very high, and those who work earn an average income of \$30 per month. Part of that income goes to pay for private school (no public schools.). Grocery stores are for folks with money--the rest buy their food on the street from their neighbors. **The resourcefulness of workers constructing without sufficient resources and tools surprised us.** Our houses and workplaces are so stuffed with stuff, that it is hard to imagine managing without it. We have such abundance that we rarely need to depend on God for our daily bread.

(continued on page 6)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 11TH THRU 15TH
6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

(continued from Page 5)

Haitian Christians depend on God for everything. And they praise God for all they receive -- in their songs, in their prayers and heartfelt worship, in their pure joy that they are children of Jesus and in their commitment to share everything they have received with others. In ten days we moved from feeling sorry for the Haitians because they weren't like us to feeling sad and ashamed we weren't more like them. (The Mission Team)

TRUSTEES REPORT

(submitted by Keith Roop, secretary pro tem)

Meeting Date: June 6, 2011

The following items were discussed:

- Church siding job- Vernon Gittleston talked to Steve Christiansen from McConnell & Sons about the price of siding and if we should order it now. Steve didn't think the price of siding would go up. If he finds out it is going up he will let us know so we can order it and pay for it then.
- Leaky faucet in the parsonage hasn't been fixed.
- Windows in Parsonage- waiting to see if Ed Uphoff got a price on windows.
- Painting Sanctuary - Tom White didn't get a chance to come out and look at the Sanctuary for an estimate on cost to paint it.
- Carpet stains on Sanctuary carpet - Maybe white grape juice instead of red could be used. Pastor will discuss it with the Worship Committee.
- Water pressure problem at the church and parsonage. Vernon Gittleston checked out the water fountain, nothing decided.
- Christian Education School - Pastor will talk with the new D.S. and Marcy Newberry about what needs to be done or could be done.
- Computer. - Old computer locked up, motion to buy new computer by Keith Roop and 2nd by Vernon Gittleston. Motion passed.
- PKD room - PKD and 2 other rooms need to be sorted out and cleaned out. (mouse problem)
- Parsonage gutters. - TV tower is leaning against the gutter and water is not hitting the gutter. Jeff Winterland said he would see if he had a bracket and would fix it.

The next meeting date was not discussed as the normal date would be on July 4th holiday. (Watch the bulletin for a date change).

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Name: Kimberly R. Townsend
 Nick Name: Angel
 Birthday : August 20th
 Home town: Ashton
 Parent's names: Jack & Jamie
 Siblings: Shawn-6; Jessie-5; Daniel 10; Walker 11.
 School Attending & Grade: AFC Elementary—4th grade
 Favorite School Subject: Reading
 Hobbies: Collect dolls
 Favorite Food: Hotdogs
 Favorite Place to eat out: The Huddle
 Pets: Dog named 'Babe'
 Favorite time of day: Night
 Why : When I sleep
 Favorite Movie: Little Mermaid
 Favorite Adult in your life: My Dad
 What do you hope to do in your adult life:
 Be a Vet!

+++++

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Name: Sawyer Quinn Murphy
 Nick Name: None
 Birthday: November 17th
 Home town: Franklin Grove, IL
 Parents Names: Chad and Kristy Murphy
 Siblings: Zane Murphy—6 yrs old
 School Attending & Grade: AFC Middle School –5th grade
 Favorite School Subject: Social Studies
 Favorite Place to 'Eat Out': Portillos
 Pets: None
 Favorite Time of Day: Afternoon
 Why: Because I come home from school
 Favorite Movie: The Three Stooges
 Favorite Adult in Your Life: Carlene Poston(Nanny)
 What do you hope to do in your adult life? What-ever fits me best.

ANNOUNCEMENT: In Revenue Procedure IR-2011-69, the IRS has announced that the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business purposes will increase to 55.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven from July 1, 2011, through Dec. 31,2011. This is an increase of 4.5 cents from the 51 cent rate in effect for the first 6 months of 2011.

UMC NORTHERN IL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By Rhonda Brown

When I was asked to write a brief report on Annual Conference for the July newsletter I wasn't sure how I was going to keep it brief, nor was I sure how I was going to complete it in time. I was planning to submit a report for August. I was thinking I had too much to do this week. However, it seems that God had another plan. I couldn't stop thinking about the conference and how good and inspired I felt for several days after. I started remembering everything that I wanted to share and I knew that I wasn't going to get much else accomplished until I started my report. I am still struggling with making it brief, but I will do my best.

I now know more than I ever wanted about the business side of church. We elected 10 laity delegates this year; 4 for general, 4 for jurisdictional, and 2 alternatives. The clergy also elected delegates. It seems the general consensus was that the laity was more efficient in their elections which I guess from what I was told is the norm. I have the list of delegates if you would like to see it. There were also many amendments discussed and voted on. I have a partial list of what was carried, defeated, and tabled if you are interested. Pastor Al may have taken better notes and have more of a complete list.

I understand the need for the business side (well sort of), but it was the praise and worship time that I could really relate to and looked forward to each day. It would be so great if we could have four days of praise and worship without the business, because it would be all about God! The guest speaker for the Bible study each day was a Native American man by the name of Ray Buckley. WOW, he was phenomenal and so inspirational. He speaks from the heart and touches each person in a different way. He spoke the truth, no matter how hard it was to hear or how bad the truth was. His stories may not have come out of the Bible, but his message was so clear. I will tell you one of them a little later, but if you missed church on June 12th you missed hearing Pastor Al sharing another. Ray Buckley has written several books. I'm not sure if we were able to pick one up at the Conference or not because they sold out them fast. I encourage you to find and read one if you can. It will be worth your time.

Then there was the music each day. They had a wonderful praise team. However they didn't just

sing the contemporary music. They sang a lot of the traditional hymns, like How Great Thou Art, and On Christ the Solid Rock I stand. I know I joked on June 12th about needing to have a percussion set to accompany the songs we sing each week, but it really does make a big difference in how alive the songs sound with the drums playing softly in the background. However Gary told me that he thinks our new organ can play the same sound, so we may not have to invest in a percussion set. There were also several individuals and groups that performed as well. My absolute favorite was Natarsha Gardner singing Amazing Grace while being accompanied by a Native American flute. The Korean Clergy Spouse's Choir was also very good. As I stated above, it was the Praise and Worship that I enjoyed the most throughout the Conference.

It was the theme and main message of the Conference that moved me the most. The Bible Study and much of the music tied in nicely with the theme. The theme was "ReThink Church" and it held a different meaning for different people. Now I should warn you that I am going to get a little preachy right now. Many of you will not agree with what I am going to say and I may even offend you. That is ok; you don't have to agree with me. You may have different ideas and I would love to discuss them with you. If you are offended, just know that was not my goal and I am also willing to talk to you as well. For some "ReThink Church" means to completely change your worship time to be all contemporary so you can reach the teens and 20 something crowd to fill your pews and therefore fill your offering plate. I don't agree with this. I don't think you have to change your whole service to get a certain age group interested in church, because then you could lose another age group. I like having the mix with traditional and contemporary. I still think we can liven up the traditional hymns a little, but that is just my opinion. One group had a 13 year old and an 18 year talk about in favor of changing the service, "Because church is boring!" They said that their church holds a second service in the middle of the week that is all contemporary and it is the younger members who attend. However what I actually heard them saying was, that they liked being accepted in the church without being judged by the members. The 18 year old told a story about his struggles to choose the church over his friends in his neighborhood. He stated that he was worried about admitting this in church because he thought

they would judge him. However when he walked into the church and told someone he was struggling, the person did not judge him. He/she grabbed his hand and held onto it tightly and said a prayer for him. He said that is when he felt accepted by the church. For me and others "ReThink Church" means changing the way you do things, but not necessarily your worship service. Christians are often viewed by others as being judgmental and hypocritical. We need to change this image. It means reaching out to those who are different than we are, without judgment and with acceptance. It means getting off the pews and going out into the community and showing God's love by helping others in need. Now that doesn't necessarily mean throwing money at the problem, you can give something even more valuable, your time. It means reaching out to that single mother with 3 children by 3 different fathers to help her fix up her apartment so the children will be safe. It means reaching out to that teenage boy that has 15 piercings on his face and twice as many tattoos and accepting him for who he is. It means reaching out to that dirty smelly homeless man and helping him find a way to get back on his feet. It means reaching out to that gay couple down the street that is a victim of hate crimes to let them know that not everyone hates them. This is what Jesus teaches us to do (Mathew 5: 16; Mathew 7: 12; Luke 6:36; Ephesians 4: 32; 1 John 4: 7-8). We don't have to agree with their life styles or their choices, but we can't judge them either. God is the only true judge. We all sin and we learn in church that our sins will be forgiven when we ask for the forgiveness. That is the message we need to put out there for others to see. I feel that Pastor Al and Linda are leading by example and we are truly blessed to have someone that is not afraid to step out of their comfort zone. I know not everyone agreed with Pastor Al coaching the high school baseball team, but that is exactly the kind of outreach we should be doing. If he could reach just one kid (my understanding he did) and help them to turn their life around then it makes it worth it. Have you noticed that most of the young men who play on our softball team do not attend our church? Have you asked why? Here is a perfect opportunity for the church to do some outreach and we haven't done it. I am including myself in this. I go and watch the games, but I haven't really taken the time to get to know the players. At conference we were told that it is time to "Talk the talk and Walk the walk!" We were also told that it is time to take that

old saying; "We never done it this way before" Or "This is the way we have always done things" out of our vocabulary. The old ways are not working any more. Churches are dying and closing, if we want to save them then we have to change what we are doing. It's time to think outside of the box. Ray Buckley's message on Friday was if you give everything you have to others in need, then God will reward you with more than what you started with. So church how much are you willing to give? Ok I failed miserably to keep it brief! Sorry about that.

WHERE "U" ARE NEEDED

"U" are needed in Bible ST_DY, but not in IGNO-RANCE.

"U" are needed in S_PPORT, but not in NEGLECT.

"U" are needed in _NITY, but not in DIVISION.

"U" are needed in B_ILDING, but not in TEARING DOWN.

"U" are needed in CH_RCH!!

(Author Unknown—submitted by Cindy Knight)



Turn your eyes upon Jesus
 Look full in His wonderful face
 And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
 In the light of His glory and grace.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 4th— 7:00 pm—Trustees Meeting (Watch bulletin for possible change)**
- July 7th – 8:30 am—Fellowship of Christian Women—Breakfast at The Huddle**
- July 11th —6:30 pm— Staff-Parrish Relations Committee meeting**
7:00 pm— Church Council
- July 11th—15th— 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm— Vacation Bible School**
- July 15th —Newsletter Items Deadline**
- July 19th — 7:00 pm—Hub Cluster Meeting at Ashton UMC**
- July 30th — 8:00 am— Cluster Men’s Breakfast at Olive Branch in Rochelle.**