



Almena UMC Newsletter

October/November 2007
269-668-2811

www.almenaumc.com

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study: 9 am

Sunday Church Services: 10 am

Greetings friends and visitors,

In a recent Alpha small group, participants got to know each other by doing a few ice breakers. One of the questions was: What was your favorite childhood book, and why was it your favorite? Interestingly, many of the books named were about families overcoming great difficulties with grit, guts and a dose of good humor. The Boxcar Children, The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew, and Little Women were just a few of the titles named. There is something classic about tales of families coming together to meet life's obstacles, to share life's adventures, and to endure from generation to generation.

This fall we have begun the study of just such a family. In the greatest story ever told, God reveals his plan to use families to pass faith in Him from generation to generation. Starting from the covenant with Abraham and moving thru centuries of adventures and woes, God slowly shapes the identity of a people set apart as holy; set apart not for special privilege, but for special responsibility. Along the way daily life in the community wobbles on with joy and fear, wars and festivals, successes and failures. All of it points to the day in the future when One will come to make things right in the world once and for all. I invite you to join us in worship as we study the highlights (and lowlights) of the Old Testament. Come see how you fit into this grand drama of life with God.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, in the last book of the Bible, God makes known His hope for the future in the book of Revelation. Both of our Adult Sunday School classes will meet together to study Revelation beginning on October 14th. I look forward to leading and learning together.

Our children's classes are organized in 3 grade levels: Preschool thru 2nd Grade, 3rd thru 5th, and 6th thru 12th grades. Snacks and coffee are on at 8:45, and classes begin at 9 am. Bring your kids, grandkids and friends. The more the merrier at Sunday School! An acolyte training session for children in 4th grade or higher will be held after church on Sunday October 28th. Let Pastor Donna or Sandi Rickli know if you are interested.

An "Exploring Membership" class will be held in late fall. Please let me know if you are interested.

May Peace Prevail on Earth,
Pastor Donna

Almena Quilters:

The quilting group will meet on Tuesday, October 2, at 7pm. Pat Conolly is leading the group in an applique project and a banner for the church. Please contact Pat for the items you will need to bring to the meeting. – Diane Ross

OFFERING ENVELOPES: We have just received a new shipment of offering envelopes. The new ones are not numbered, so please remember to put your name on the envelope. There will also be envelopes in the card holders in the pews, for those of you who forget to bring one with you. As always, if you need a new box of envelopes, they are located on the table in the church entry way, or see Diane Ross. To receive a "Statement of Giving" to use for income tax purposes at the end of the year, you must use offering envelopes!

Reminder: Church Conference

Our yearly Church Conference will be held Sunday Oct. 7 at 5:00 PM in our sanctuary.

Our Staff Parish Relations Committee will meet with District Supt. Abiade at 4:30.

All church members are encouraged to attend at 5:00 PM. We will have a mini-worship service, then take care of church business, including votes on Pastor's Compensation, Lay Leaders, Lay Speakers, Membership Report, and receive other reports.

Missions by Lois Richardson

The October mission project is for local missions, with the primary emphasis being our Thanksgiving Baskets. (I know it doesn't seem possible already!) In November the congregation will be asked to bring appropriate nonperishable food items to fill the baskets and the money given to the mission project for October will be used to buy turkeys and any remaining food items still needed. These baskets are really appreciated by the families who receive them. If you know of local families who could use this assistance, please let Pastor Donna, Janet Swigart or myself know soon. Any remaining funds will go to other local missions.

The Lane 2 World Project in November will be Babyfold at Old Mutare Hospital in Zimbabwe, Africa. "Babyfold is in Zimbabwe what we would call in the United States a home for orphan infants. For several reasons--cultural, social and economic--many infant babies are abandoned in Africa at birth. Multiple births, deformed babies, and deliveries causing the death of the mother are often interpreted in a negative way. The result is a steady flow of infants in need of the babyfold." Sometimes we hear these and similar pleas so often we become desensitized. Let's not let this happen as we respond to this very real need with Christ-like compassion

Financial Committee & Treasurer

I have a lot to tell you.

I will start by telling you our ministry shares made possible for almost 2,000 campers and 400 adult leaders to participate in 55 camps this summer. Isn't that a wonderful opportunity for our young people!

We purchased a new Dell Computer for our accounting needs. It is not set up yet, because I am waiting for the 2008 Quicken program. Many of you may not know this, but the computer I now have, has been very temperamental and frustrating to work with. It doesn't have much memory capacity, so every time I wanted to run a report I would have to unload it onto discs or it would lock up or not print.

The new computer will allow me to move on with less stress. The other issue with the old computer is we have to run three programs on discs to get information for the reports I give to the AD Board. On the new computer, we are going to keep the information in one program.

With the change, I would like to combine the "Restricted Funds" with the budget on one report. We will keep only two select funds and that will be the Building Fund and the Memorial Fund.

Two budget printouts are included on the last page of this newsletter...the 2008 Budget and the 2008 Budget revised with the Restricted Funds included. What I did is added the money that is now in the Restricted to the Budget revised printout.

The Finance Committee has voted to accept the 2008 revised budget and will not be taking it to the Ad Board for approval until October 22, 2007. I would like our Church Family to look over these documents and let me know how you feel about this change and if you have any questions about these changes.

Please feel free to talk to myself or Diane Ross about this change.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Tinkler

Newsletter/Ad Board by Jerry

- **I hope to see a good turn out for our church conference this evening, 10/07/07!**
- **Next Ad Board meeting is set for October 22nd at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.**
- **The next newsletter will be out December 2nd. The deadline for articles will be November 28th. I welcome contributions from everyone, even before the deadline!**
- **My email for church: jerrylentz@almenaumc.com .**



Almena UMC Harvest Dinner

Plans need to be made to make our annual Harvest Dinner another great success, but we all know that it takes much work, planning, and contributions... Please help! ☺

This year, it will be on November 3rd, starting at 4.

Again, we will need generous volunteers to help plan and coordinate. Look for more information, announcements and sign up sheets!

This is a great way to have a little fun with church family, serving our community!

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(See Matthew 14:14-21)

11-24-1999

HONESTLY JESUS, YOU GIVE ME 5 PIES AND 2
TURKEYS AND EXPECT ME TO COOK FOR THE
5,000 GUESTS YOU'VE INVITED???