



# LATHROP UMC

## NEWSLETTER

[www.lathropumc.org](http://www.lathropumc.org)

NOVEMBER 2009

[lathropumc.newsletter@live.com](mailto:lathropumc.newsletter@live.com)

Sunday School 9:45 A.M.

Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

**The land has produced its harvest; God, our God has blessed us. God has blessed us; may all people everywhere honor him.**

*Psalms 67: 6-7*

### FROM OUR PASTORS' DESKS

#### Richard's Raps

Yeah for Halloween! As a child, I loved Halloween. I like the event even more as an adult! Yes, I do sneak candy from the treat bowl. However, the candy is not what excites me about the event. What excites me about Halloween are the children coming to my door. For a moment I get to be a tiny bit special in their lives — for a moment I get to share a little slice of my life with them — for a moment I get to re-live my "trick or treat" days. As I thought about this little once a year event, I started wondering if God gets this excited when we (His children) knock on His door through our prayer and quiet devotion time, our joyful and excited times, our worship attendance, or some moment of a spiritual awakening to the fact that God is always present in our lives. I know that God gets excited when we "show up" and seek a bit of His attention - His care - His comfort - His joy. Halloween will only last a few hours, and then it's back to our regular routine — sadly. God, however, is ever welcoming us at His door, and that is anything but routine! So, go ahead and knock loud on the door of God and get ready to be greeted with joy!

Just a little quote by Carlo Carretto to ponder, " . . . I call the God of my faith the 'God who is,' not the 'God who seems to me to be.'"

#### Ted's Ponderings

Wed Nov 11th is Veterans Day. I would like to share some of my reflections about serving our soldiers, (who are now veterans) as their chaplain. Jesus gave us our marching orders when he said "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of God the Father of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Math 28:19.

There are few that have more opportunity to fulfill this great commission than military chaplains. They are sent around the world to provide the free exercise of religion for our service men and women. I have served in Europe, the Far East and many posts across our country. The experiences have included unspeakable joy, as well as grief too heavy to bear alone. I can still remember going with a young Sgt. on a sunny Saturday morning in Vicenza, Italy, to tell his wife that their four year old son, whom he had taken fishing that morning, had fallen into the lake and drowned.

The Joys come in the baptisms of children, the weddings of soldiers and their family members, and the many worship services we have shared in chapels and in the field. Our Thanks go this day to our Veterans and their families and to those still serving for the sacrifices they have made for our country.

"America, America God shed His grace on Thee and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea"

**BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD.**  
PSALM 33:1

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Y'all Come. Soup's on. It's supper time. Another potluck is coming. Let's picnic at the lake. There's going to be a wedding or baby shower. Let's have a "Pastor's Tea". A church family needs a meal after a funeral. It's time for another "Steak and Chicken Supper" fundraiser. Who is always there to organize, buy, bake, wash, wrap, fill, dip, decorate, and cook? Wilma Griffin has this very special talent. She efficiently manages all these things and always has a smile on her face. Wilma is one half of this month's very special church couple, the Griffins. Wilma Irwin was born in Maryville. Donald (the other half) was born in Missouri City. Forty-two years ago on June 10, 1967 they were married on Oak Street during the Lathrop Friendship Festival. Donald retired from Agco after 35 years and now is a courier for The Goppert Financial Bank. He is a member of Masonic Lodge #506 and the Scottish Rite. On October 15, 2009 he received his "Red Hat" in the KCCCH. Way to go, Donald. What an honor! Wilma has worked at Todd's Café, Elda Peterson's Café, Dean Gordon's Café, Hubbard & Loy, Dairyland, and Why Not Pizza. She has also had her own catering service. No wonder she's such a fantastic cook. Wilma loves to clown around. She can do it professionally though because she has actually attended clown school at Maple Woods College. Wilma is presently serving on the Memorial and Kitchen Committees and the Board of Trustees. Donald serves our church on the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development. He also regularly serves as an usher during Sunday worship. A special kind of Christian fellowship fills our church because of these two wonderful people. Thank you, Wilma and Donald. Our church is blessed with your special flavor of religion and service.

## HISTORY OF VETERAN'S DAY

World War I ended with an implementation of an armistice between the Allies and Germany at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of November, 1918.

In 1919, President Wilson proclaims the first Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations". The original concept for the celebration was for the suspension of business for a two minute period beginning at 11 A.M., with the day also marked by parades and public meetings.

On the second anniversary of the armistice, France and the United Kingdom held ceremonies honoring their unknown dead from the war. In America, at the suggestion of church groups, President Wilson named the Sunday nearest the eleventh as Armistice Day Sunday, on which should be held services in the interest of international peace.

In 1921 Congress passed legislation approving the establishment of a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. November 11 is chosen for the date of the ceremony. Congress also declared November 11 a legal Federal holiday to honor all those who participated in the war. The ceremony was conducted with great success.

In 1926 Congress adopted a resolution directing the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the observance of Armistice Day. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, most states established November 11 as a legal holiday and at the Federal level, an annual proclamation is issued by the President. In 1938 it became a Federal holiday.

From 1941–1953, millions of veterans were created during W.W.II and the Korean War, in addition to the ones from W.W.I. In 1954 President Eisenhower changed the name of Armistice Day to Veteran's Day.

In 1971, the observance was moved to the fourth Monday in October. However, it was soon changed back to Nov. 11 in 1978 where it is still observed today.

## STEAK AND CHICKEN SUPPER

Once again our Steak and Chicken Supper was a success! Many members of our church family and the Lathrop community enjoyed a superb meal. Not only was the meal wonderful, but our youth did an excellent job of taking orders, serving, and clearing the tables. The Fellowship Hall was very festive with colorful table cloths and decorations and cheerfulness was everywhere. What wonderful examples of stewardship and Christian fellowship!! **Thank You** to everyone who made our fundraiser successful.

## DATES TO REMEMBER



### NOVEMBER

1	Daylight Savings Time Ends	
1	UMC Men's Breakfast	7:30 a.m.
1	Communion Sunday	11:00 a.m.
2	Administration Board Meeting	7:15 p.m.
4	Youth Group Meeting	6:00 p.m.
4	Soup Supper & Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
7	Community Men's Breakfast	7:30 a.m.
	Hosted by First Christian Church	7:00 a.m.
8	UMC Men's Breakfast	7:30 a.m.
8	Fellowship Dinner following Worship	
9	Brownie Scouts	7:00 p.m.
10	Tiger Cubs	7:00 p.m.
19	Pack 168 Scout meeting	7:00 p.m.
24	Tiger Cubs	7:00 p.m.
26	Thanksgiving	
29	Advent Sunday	



### BIRTHDAYS

#### November—

- 1...Griffin Hensen
- 2...Robert Vaughn
- 5...Aaron Armstrong
- 5...Steven Beane
- 13...Jennifer Vaughn
- 22...Lanie Justus
- 26...Becky Lytle



### ANNIVERSARY

- 5...Debbie & I.D. Smith, Jr.
- 28...Gerald & Cheryl Snodgrass



### CARES AND CONCERNS

- Erna King
- Josephine Crisman
- Grafton (Doc) & Estyl Bowers
- Gerry McKee
- Barry Todd
- Dorothy Mapes

## ADVENT

Advent is a Christian observance, beginning four Sundays before Christmas. It is a time of expectance and preparation for the coming of the Messiah, and closes with the celebration of the Nativity. This year Advent begins November 29.

**I praise God, because he did not reject my prayer or keep back his constant love from me.**

Psalms 66: 20

**LOCAL CHURCH OFFICIALS FOR 2010  
REQUIRED COMMITTEES**

**CHARGE PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Lay Member to Annual Conference---Kathy Mydland  
Lay Leader (if not included elsewhere)---Kathy Mydland  
Committee Chair (Included in class below)---Kyle Beane

Class of 2010  
Lou Todd  
Trish Martin  
Fred Stone

Class of 2011  
Lori Snodgrass  
Martin Brown  
Barbara Hardin

Class of 2012  
Kyle Beane  
Norella Beane  
TBN

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Class of 2010  
Porter Hensen  
Ed Stark  
Donna Jelinek

Class of 2011  
Jay Maddick  
Pete Bonar  
Barry Todd

Class of 2012  
Eddie Hisel  
Wilma Griffin  
Joe Gagnon

**COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Pastor (Chairperson) Ted Hepner/Richard Ogden  
Vice Chair (From Committee) TBA  
Lay Leader

Class of 2010  
Cathy Payne  
Carol Maddick  
Don Griffin

Class of 2011  
Ed Stark  
Alyssa Dial  
Cheryl Snodgrass

Class of 2012  
Brenda Bonar  
TBN  
Carman Stone

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Chairperson TBN  
Pastors Ted Hepner/Richard Ogden  
Lay Mbr. Of Annual Conference Kathy Mydland  
Council Chairperson Gerald Snodgrass  
PPR Chair Kyle Beane  
Trustee Representative Chair  
Stewardship Chairperson Lori Snodgrass  
Lay Leader Kathy Mydland  
Financial Secretary Barry Todd  
Church Treasurer Lori Snodgrass  
Church Business Administrator N/A

Others:  
Mitzi Hensen  
Alyssa Dial  
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**Come and listen, all who honor God, and I will tell you what he has done for me. I cried to him for help; I praised him with songs. If I had ignored my sins, the Lord would not have listened to me. But God has indeed heard me; he has listened to my prayer.**

## COMMITTEES FOR 2010

### Worship

Chair: Brenda Bonar  
Pete Bonar  
Trish Martin (Children's Sermon Planner)  
Barry Todd  
Jesse Aldrich  
Mandy Beane (Children's Sermon Planner)  
TBN

### Education

Chair: Kathy Mydland  
Donna Jelinek  
Fred Stone (Adults)  
Jay Maddick  
Steve Jelinek  
Porter Hensen  
Elaine Elliott (Small Group)  
TBN

### Kitchen

Chair: Wilma Griffin  
Neoma Lottman  
Barbara Hardin  
Mitzi Hensen  
Lou Todd

### Outreach/Nurture

Chair: Barry Todd  
Committee TBN

### Scholarship

Gerald Snodgrass  
Cathy Payne

### Memorial

Marguerite Pulliam  
Porter Hensen  
Wilma Griffin

## AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD

I dreamed that I had an interview with God. **"So, you would like to interview me?"** God asked. "If you have the time," I said.

God smiled, **"My time is eternity...what questions do you have in mind for me?"** "What surprises you most about humankind?" I asked.

God answered...**"That they get bored with childhood, they rush to grow up and then long to be children again. That they lose their health to make money, and then lose their money to restore their health. That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live in neither the present nor the future. That they live as if they will never die, and die like they have never lived."**

God's hand took mine and we were silent for a while. And then I asked, "As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you want your children to learn?"

**"To learn they cannot make anyone love them. All they can do is let themselves be loved. To learn it is not good to compare themselves to others. To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness. To learn it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in those they love, and it can take many years to heal them. To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most, but is one who needs the least. To learn that there are people who love them dearly, but simply do not know how to express their feelings. To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently. To learn that it is not enough that they forgive one another, but they must also forgive themselves."**

"Thank you for your time," I said humbly. "Is there anything else you would like your children to know?"

God smiled and said...**"Just know that I am here. Always."**

## FROM ONE PUMPKIN TO ANOTHER!!!!!!!



A woman was asked by a co-worker, "What is it like to be a Christian?" The co-worker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all of the world to see."

**"Count seven weeks from the time that you begin to harvest the grain, and then celebrate the Harvest Festival, to honor the Lord your God, by bringing him a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing he has given you."**

Deuteronomy 16: 9-10

## **SPECIAL STEWARDSHIP SUNDAYS**

The Administrative Council and the Finance Committee have designated the first two weeks of November as “Stewardship” Sundays. Both pastors will be bringing stewardship messages and words of appreciation for your faithful stewardship though out the year.

During these two weeks of “stewardship” focus, all should prayerfully consider their commitment to the Church’s mission to teach the children, be present with the lonely, feed the poor, help with the sick, and to proclaim the love of God through worship and sacraments.

So, **Take Five** minutes a day with God during the first two weeks in November seeking what He would have your acts of discipleship be in the coming year.

There will be an opportunity for all to give a special financial gift to the Church on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, as out way of saying, “Thank You” to our God for all His many blessings throughout this year.

With your cooperation and generosity and obedience to God’s will, your Church will move forward.

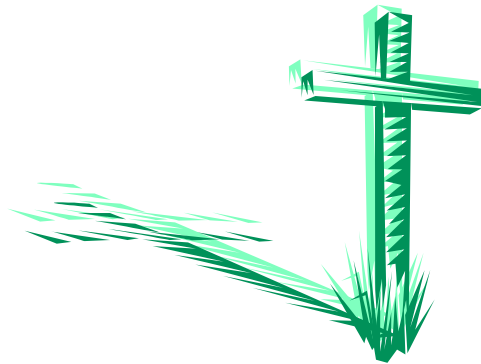
## **ISN'T IT STRANGE**

Isn't it strange how a 20 dollar bill seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping?

Isn't it strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie?

Isn't it strange that you can't find a word to say when you're praying but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend?

Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a popular novel?



**TAKE FIVE MINUTES EACH DAY TO PRAY FOR OTHERS**