

OLIVET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

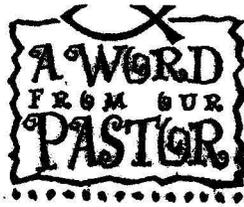
NEWSLETTER

2014



Jack Brown
Pastor

*The Spirit calls us to covenant
All work is ministry ~ All ministry is worship*



Dear Friends,

As I am about to take off for Israel as a result of your gracious gifts toward my trip, for which I am very grateful – both for your friendship and blessing, and for the opportunity to see the land of the Bible. Because of this and the season of Thanksgiving soon to come, I have been thinking about grace and gratitude. I read over some things in my notebooks that speak about the fact that God works through relationships. My collection has many things that illustrate this point, but here are a prayer and a devotional that influence me strongly. I hope they will encourage you and me to be continually intentional and willing instruments of God's grace. As others bless us we have occasions to be thankful; it will be the same as we bless one another and those outside of our church who really need blessing. God's grace becomes evident.

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:12 [NRSV]

Alison VanBuskirk in the Upper Room, Tuesday, May 26, 2009

A year after Hurricane Katrina, I went to New Orleans with other students in my campus ministry group. We spent a week hanging drywall, spackling, and sanding in Alice's home. Alice was an older woman who had lost three siblings in the year after the hurricane. As she served us peach tea and showed us her paintings of Jesus and Mary, she told us about her life.

But by the end of the week, Alice's warmth, gratitude, and faith had inspired and strengthened our faith. Before we could thank her for sharing her life with us, she put her arms around us and told us, with tears in her eyes, "Y'all have been God's presence in my life. You don't know how much you've blessed me. God has been good to me by sending you."

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That night during our evening devotions, we reflected on the reciprocal nature of God's rich blessings. Alice had taught us about faith, hope, and love as much as we had helped her as she rebuilt her house and grieved her losses. God truly does become present through the people in our lives; God lives, heals, and loves through our interaction with one another.

May we experience God's LOVE in some way today (directly or mediated through someone we encounter), may we sense God's SPIRIT with us (overtly or subtly), may we be blessed by the touch of God's HEALING hand (in ways we will see and know and in ways we may not see but need on the inside somewhere), may we have God's guiding LIGHT (whether a spot light, a flood light, a flash, or a simple reflection), may we have God's comforting GRACE (either that He begins to give us what we need in some manifest and demonstrative way or simply makes us stronger and more faithful to be able to take care of our business for ourselves), may we have God's MERCY today (His forgiveness and work of reconstruction and the ability to affirm that He is the "Lord even of your shame"). And may we be the conduit of God's love, presence, healing, light, grace and mercy to others around you today, at least to one person who needs any or all of these things. And throughout this day, in its moments, minutes and hours, may we have such a sense God in ACTION that we are moved to express our gratitude and thanksgiving to Him.

*With you in Christ's service,
Pastor Jack*

NEW MEMBERS.....Welcome

Rob Hunt and Lisa Bolton-Hunt

Rob and Lisa joined the church on September 28th making their commitment to be a part of our church family.

We look forward to their continued participation as they are an important part of our "family"we welcome them and have already experienced the blessings and devoted Christian care they bring to our congregation.

We look forward to the message Lisa will bring to us on Sunday, November 9th when Pastor Jack is in Israel. THANK YOU, LISA!

Live Each Day as a Steward

God calls us, appoints, us, equips us and gives us gifts to be faithful stewards. A good deed here and there is not what God wants of us or for us. Our lifestyle should reflect the presence of God. Acknowledge the source of your blessings and the grace that sustains each of us. This helps us to live our lives with gratitude and trust in Him rather than in our possessions. God's grace and love empower us to share with others.

He wants all of us to receive what He has provided and to find fulfillment in living each day. Being a generous and cheerful giver is our response to God's goodness. Learn to live an open-handed life in a tight-fisted world.

- **SUBMIT** yourself and all that you have to the LORD
- **STUDY** the Scriptures on finances and generosity
- **SEE** what God has provided in your life
- **SET ASIDE** resources to give
- **SYSTEMATICALLY** give
- **SPONTANEOUSLY** give as the LORD leads you
- **SIMPLIFY** your life to be even more generous

How do you respond? Are you willing to make a commitment to Him? Grow in your relationship with God through good, solid, Biblical stewardship.

"What happens to our bodies? On the one hand they take in food. We must eat. On the other hand the food that is eaten is transformed into loyalty, energy, work, and care. The one who provides the food we eat governs the loyalties we embrace." *Walter Brueggemann*

*Dear Jesus,
I thank You for everything You have given me.
My gifts of time and talents are precious gifts.
Enable me to use them to do Your will.*



*I offer You this day all my words, actions, and good intentions
To reflect my love for You and my neighbor.
Please help me realize that I need to share these gifts
And all my gifts with the Church and others.
Help me to be generous, patient, forgiving, and holy.
Amen.*

From Called by Christ, Gifted by the Spirit

Marie Steele

2015 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

"Live Each Day as a Steward"

Please prayerfully consider your commitment to the church for 2015. The "official" conclusion of the campaign was on October 26th but pledge cards may still be put in the offering plate, brought or mailed to the church or you may call the church office to phone your pledge amount to Sharon.....If you need a new pledge card and envelope they are on the back table in the sanctuary or available at the church office.

If you have not returned your pledge card please do so as soon as possible so that the 2015 budget can be prepared.

Even though you may not be making a pledge for 2015 it is still helpful in the office that you return your pledge card indicating that you do not wish to pledge at this time.

THANK YOU!!

HOLY LAND TRIP.....

The time has come for Pastor Jack to go on his trip generously provided by our church family to Israel.

This is a well deserved gift to our pastor who gives so much of himself to care for our church family.

He will leave on Monday, Nov. 3rd
returning on Wednesday Nov. 12th.

If you have a pastoral need during this time please contact the church office (269-749-2631) or Sharon Palacio (269-209-7402).

Thank you to everyone that made this gift possible!

Special thanks to Lisa Bolton-Hunt for preaching on Sunday, November 9th during Pastor Jack's absence.

We Care...

Our sympathy is extended to:



The family of Paige Cords. A beautiful young lady was lost to her family and friends as the result of a car accident on Sept. 2nd. Please keep Seth, Jill, Cody, Blaine and Allison in your continued prayers as they cope with this tragic loss.

The family of Richard Vahs who passed away on September 10th. He was a long time member of our church family and will be missed by church and community. A very giving man with a big heart. **Please keep Ponja in your prayers and Christian care.** The family designated memorial gifts in memory of Richard to the Olivet Congregational Church.

The family of Magan Robison who passed away on September 18th. Magan attended Kalamazoo College and attended our church as a young child. Please keep Mike and Rhonda in prayer during this most difficult time.

The family of Pauline Hall (Bonnie Judd's mother) who passed away on October 20th. Her service was held in Charlotte with Pastor Jack officiating. Please keep the Judd family in prayer.

The family of Greg Carpenter who passed away on October 25th at his home. Greg has received loving care from his family during his battle with cancer. **A memorial service will be held at the Olivet Congregational Church on Sunday, Nov. 2nd at 2:00 with a visitation prior to the service at 1:00.** Please keep Kathy and the entire Carpenter family in your prayers!

If you have a prayer concern for yourself or someone you know please contact Pastor Jack (home: 269-749-4171) or the church office (269-749-2631). Also, please let us know of any illness, anyone in the hospital or anyone needing a home visit.

TURKEY SUPPER

Turkey and all the trimmings Served Family Style

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

at Olivet Congregational Church

Corner of East and College Streets

Serving at 4:45 – 5:30 – 6:30

or Carry Out

ALL TICKETS SOLD IN ADVANCE

Adults \$10 Children \$5 (5-12) Free (4 & under)



TICKETS FOR SALE at:

Church Office (269) 749-2631

King Agency (Olivet)

Mole Hole (Marshall)

or call Sharon: (269) 209-7402

WORKERS NEEDED: Please sign-up on the bulletin board in the dining room. **Chairperson for clean-up needed!** Please see Kathy Judd or Sharon Palacio.

SOUP LUNCHEONS

Plan to have lunch on the last Sunday of each month after the worship service. The Friendship Committee will host the luncheon and appreciates those that help with providing soups.



Donations may be given for the luncheon, but not required!
Proceeds will be used for various mission work.

WALK FOR YOUR NEIGHBOR....

A "walk" was completed on Sunday, October 26th with the proceeds going to the Olivet Good Neighbor Food Pantry. Several people in our congregation joined in this effort to raise funds to provide food for community families. **SPECIAL THANKS** to BARB SPENCER for organizing this event with help from the Mission Board members. **\$703 was raised for the pantry!!!!**



CRAM THE CART....

Saturday Nov. 8th & Sunday Nov. 9th from 9am-3pm
in the Double Nickel Parking Lot

The Olivet Lions Club will again collect non-perishable food items, personal care products and receive monetary donations to help with milk, bread and egg expense that are given to families through the Olivet Good Neighbor Food Pantry. This is a very successful annual event the Lions Club sponsors. There has been a 40% increase in need of the food pantry.

Please stop by & contribute to this much needed service for community families. Your generosity is appreciated.



FUNDRAISING NEWS

RETURNABLE BOTTLES & CANS....

We continue to collect bottles & cans in the box in the downstairs dining room. Bring your clean, empty bottles & cans to the church or your bottle slips or cash from your returns (mark for "bottle returns") you may put them in the offering plate or bring to the church office. Proceeds go toward the repair needed on the church roof and exterior tuck pointing.

\$971.10 (money earned on bottle/can returns)

PARKING CARS for the home Olivet College Football games has been a great fund raiser. **THANK YOU to Rich Mattea for organizing these days.** Thanks to Ben Hart for his help each week!

We have 2 home games to go!

Saturday, November 8th – 11am to 1:00

Saturday, November 15th – 11am to 1:00

Proceeds to date = \$3,563

There is a sign-up sheet on the board in the dining room if you can help or call the church office to sign-up. We need 8 volunteers for each day.

ALSO.....Rich and Ben Hart go to the field every Sunday morning at 9am to clean up the parking area. If you could help, please see Rich or just show up at the field. It doesn't take long but should not be left up to a couple people. The job could be completed in a very short time with more help.

SPECIAL THANKS to Kyle (owner) of Kings Auto Service for allowing us to use his parking lot on game days. This has added to our fund raising profit. If you see him please **THANK HIM!**



Dear OCC Family....

Hello from the Upper Peninsula. Mike, I and good dog "Jax" have settled in to our rental home. A farmhouse on 300 acres 9 miles south of Sault Saint Marie! Mike's job is going well and he has traveled about quite a bit up here. He is a born transplant. I love the quietness and beauty of this place. People are very nice and helpful. My job search has not yet produced a job, bad and good depending on perspective. I have plenty to do with organizing a house, exploring the area, watching the growing herd of Mackinaw Island Draft horses in surrounding fields. The Island soon closes and all will be in residence nearby upwards of 300...there are 35 here now. These gentle giants wander around ignoring me and all humans after a long hard summer on the island. We have a small country church just up the road called Rosedale Community Church. Very nice, welcoming and the pastor is wonderful. **But, oh how I miss you all!!!**

Please keep in touch. Drop a line or text. All will be answered. Take care, good luck with your winterization.

Love and miss our church family,

Linda and Mike McGuire

Our address:

9774 S. Shunk Rd.
Dafter, MI 49724

Phone:

269-209-2607



OUR PRAYERS to Bernadine Waterbury who is receiving Hospice care in her home. Her granddaughter, Sherry is staying with her giving her lots of loving care. If you would like to send her a card or note her address is: 184 East Rd. Apt #17

Dimondale, MI 48821



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Bud Hull. He will celebrate his birthday on November 2nd. It may be "belated" but birthday cards or "thinking of you" cards may be sent to him at:

New Haven Elder Care
230 Hoehn Court
Dimondale, MI 48821



Special Appeal

We continue to raise funds for our commitment to sponsor a patient room (the "Patriotic room") in the new *hospice house at Eaton Community Palliative Care*.

Our financial commitment is a total of \$15,000 to be paid over a 5 year period of time (due January 2018). The break down is to pay \$3,000 per year. We are currently on target for our obligation but we need to continue so that we can meet our goal. **We have paid \$6,025.**

There is a sign-up board for people to sponsor a week in memory of someone, in celebration of an event, in honor of someone...or just because you want to. **There is not a set amount of donation for your week of sponsorship, any amount is appreciated and your name will be printed in the bulletin for the week you sign-up.**

When you make your donation to this mission please mark on your check memo line "hospice house room" or if cash, please indicate the same on your envelope. Make checks payable to: Olivet Congregational Church and then we will write a check from the church to hospice. Your donation will be noted on your church statement.

We also have a "jug" at the back of the sanctuary for any donations. For our average attendance we could more than support our goal with a \$1 donation per week (per person) from our church family. If you have other ideas on fund raising for this project please see Sharon Palacio, Marie Steele or Pastor Jack.

No monies will be used from our regular church budget. 100% will be donations specified for the hospice house room.

WHAT A BLESSING THE HOSPICE HOUSE HAS BEEN FOR SO MANY FAMILIES DURING A DIFFICULT TIME OF NEED!



OLIVET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

125 College Street

P.O. Box 368

Olivet, MI 49076

Office Phone (269)749-2631

Fax: (269)749-9028

email: olivetcongregational@olivetcollege.edu

website: www.olivetcongregational.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service & Children's Church

Fellowship/Refreshments (after worship)

Church Office Hours: 10 am - 3 pm Tue-Fri

PASTOR:

Rev. Jack Brown

CHURCH STAFF:

Minister of Music

C.N. Director

Nursery Supervisor

Secretary

Treasurer

Maria Beam

Maria Beam

JoyAnn Carpenter

Sharon Palacio

Myrna Pedelty

OFFICERS:

Moderator

Vice-Moderator

Clerk

Troy Gardner

Nick VanDeMoortel

Cathy Claucherty