VOLUME 12, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2011

THE UNITED METHODIST MESSENGER

Sycamore United
Methodist Church
160 Johnson Avenue
Sycamore, Illinois 60178

Phone: 815-895-9113
Fax: 815-895-1042
www.sycamoreumc.org

Saturday Celebration
5:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship
8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School
10:15 a.m.

Inside this issue:

Worship Schedule/ In Our Thoughts and Prayers	2
Church News	3-5
Calendar	6
Those Who Serve	7
Church News continued	8-11

Pastor's Pen

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Jesus

All of us have stress in our lives. Some of it is good and helps make life interesting. I love a thrilling football game, the challenge of learning a new skill, the chance to travel to a new place, etc. Some stress is annoying such as inconveniences, long lines at the store, or routine demands at home or work. But a lot of stress, especially when experienced over prolonged periods of time, can be damaging leading to increased metabolism, high blood pressure and heart rate plus psychological effects that can drag one down into a depression or worse.

The challenge for us is to limit the frequency and length of time that our body remains "stressed". We Christians have tools that other people don't have that can help us deal with stress. The Bible has a lot to say about stress and its control. Psalm 119:143 says, "As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find joy in your commands." Our commitment to Christ and his teachings as found in the Scriptures can take a lot of the stress out of difficult decisions or circumstances. I find it helpful to ask "What would Jesus do?"

Just before Jesus' death, he told his disciples, "I am leaving you with a gift- peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27). Jesus offers a gift: "peace of mind and heart" but you have to take hold of it. Ask him for help with some of the little things that stress you. He will not let you down. Over time your trust will grow.

Perhaps the most famous verse is the one I quoted above, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:28-29). Jesus is saying that you do not have to carry your stress alone. When you take his yoke, it means that he will be helping to carry your load. It also says he will teach you how to let him help you.

We can expect a certain degree of stress most every day of our lives. The best way to handle it is to be prepared for it by spending a few minutes at the start of each day with some quiet time with God. Craig Fritz in his sermon on Laity Sunday, October 16, said he finds his day goes better if he has spent a few minutes reading Scripture, a short devotional and a prayer. I say "Amen!"

I have a number of short mantras (prayers) that I repeat when I find myself stressed. I call them "Breath Prayers" because I use deep chest breathing while I repeat the prayers silently. In high stress, I repeat the prayer, "O Lord, give me restful peace." When I can't sleep, I pray, "O Lord, give me peaceful rest." Another ancient Breath Prayer is the Jesus Prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God. Have mercy on me, a sinner". I find that when I repeat one of these prayers over and over, a sense of peace comes over me.

Other helpful stress breakers are saying Scripture verses, repeating The Lord's Prayer, quoting the 23rd Psalm, or perhaps even saying or singing a verse or two of a favorite hymn.

Get yourself in the habit of asking God to help you manage your stress. You will be amazed at the peace that Jesus can bring.

See you in church this weekend.

Pastor Bill Landis

November 2011 Worship Schedule

November 5– Saturday Celebration at 5:00PM

Pastor Bill Landis

Scripture: Matthew 18: 21-35

Message: Freeing Forgiveness

November 6– Sunday Worship at 8:30 & 10:00AM

All Saints Sunday

Guest Speaker: Janet Boryk of the Untied Methodist Foundation

November 12– Saturday Celebration at 5:00PM

Guest Speaker: Dr. Adam Brooks Webber, intern Pastor at First Congregational Church of DeKalb will share the Word in Song and Sermon. Dr. Brooks has his PhD in Computer Science and has taught at several prestigious institutions across the country. Several years ago , he felt the call to the ministry, went to seminary and hopes to be ordained in the next year.

November 13– Sunday Worship at 8:30 & 10:00AM

Pastor Bill Landis

Scripture: Matthew 18: 21-35

Message: Freeing Forgiveness

November 19—Saturday Celebration at 5:00PM

Guest Speaker TBA

November 20—Sunday Worship at 8:30 & 10:00AM

Pastor Bill Landis

Scripture: Matthew 25: 14-30

Message: Ultimate Thanksgiving

November 26, 27

First Sunday in Advent

Pastor Harlene Harden

Baptisms:

To schedule a baptism, please call the church office at least 2 months in advance. Baptisms may be scheduled at either the 8:30 or 10:00 a.m. service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

Holy Communion:

Holy Communion is observed the first Sunday, and the second Saturday, of each month. If you are homebound and would like to partake of Holy Communion each month, please contact the Church office.

Lori Harmon
Avery Gerdes
David Howe
Dick Graham
Linda Butt
Elizabeth Rosenberger
Ed Rosado
Rhianna Fleetwood
Ava Richter
Dorothy Edwards
Brad Shortridge
Gwen Armstrong

Pray for our Military Men & Women

*SGT Matthew "Scott" Stewart
MSgt. Bianna Yeager
SPC Timothy Stewart
*PFC John Z. Talmage
LCPL Derrick R. Wells
SGT Shaune Clark
*SPC Mitchell Stewart
LCPL Matthew Einhorn
CPT Garrett Slack
CPT John C. Whitehead
SSGT Andrew Sheehan
*SGT Christopher Isabel
*CPL Anthony Dewitz
*LT Robert Ortman
*PVT Sam Summers
*PFC Eathon Larson
*LCPL Brett Gulke
*PVT Ben Bushno
SGT. Neil Smith
PFC John Harris
Jason Abitua
*CPL Kyle Keneway
David Whitehead
*SGT Dustin Bell

*indicates deployed personnel

Sycamore United Methodist Youth Ministry

UMY ministry is open to all those youth 6th grade through 12th grade. Youth from a variety of school districts attend our group. You do not need to be a member at SUMC and friends are always welcome to attend! Please check the schedule and meeting times carefully. Updates will be in the church worship bulletin announcements. Also see our website www.sycamoreumc.org. Financial aid is available for any event.

The weather is changing and the leaves have been falling. I've always liked Thanksgiving as a holiday because it is what JESUS always wants us to remember. This is the time we should be reflecting back on the year and be thanking him for all the blessings that he has given us. I look back on a year of growing our programs and am thankful for all the youth that join us for so many of the things we do here at this church. I thank each one of you for the service you provide for this church. As always its fun to see each of you at our many different programs we have at the church. Remember to keep bringing friends to the events. If any adults would like to join in and help please contact me at joemunro@sycamoreumc.org Thanks and hope to see you soon.

Junior High Youth (6-8th grades)
Nov. 6 Youth Group 430-600pm (bring a friend)
Nov. 20 Youth Group 430-600pm (bring a friend)

Senior High Youth (9-12th grades)
Nov. 6 Youth Group 630-800 time to hang out talk
Nov. 20 Youth Group 630-800 time to hang out talk

LIFE Mission Trip (8-12th grades)
Life Mission has a spot if someone would like to join us contact Joe
November 16 Dinner at the church 5-7 (look for your email)

Lunch & Learn

Please join the Endowment Committee on Sunday November 6 after the 11:00 service for Lunch and Learn! During both services, the committee will be presenting the impact of our generous endowments and investments given to the church over time. There will be a representative from the United Methodist Foundation to talk about the investment strategies of these investments. We will be serving Italian Beef and Mostaccioli, chips and dessert. Please plan to join us!

UMM

We meet on **Thursday, November 10th** at 6:00 PM. Also, Good Eats, devotions, fellowship, and some business. Daily Chronicle Editor, **Jason** Schaumberg, will be our speaker. Come Join us!

Watch the church bulletins & check you emails concerning Men's Breakfast at 7:30 AM on November 23rd. The location & plans may be different for that date.

Thank You

Hey y'all:

First off, I would love to just thank you for your support this past summer. Your support allowed me to participate in something that I cannot even use words to describe how grateful I am to have experienced. Mountain TOP this past summer has taught me how I can make a difference, how a single summer spent in the Mountains can renew someone's soul, and how it can teach them what love is all about. My summer as a whole was spent in constant motion, between organizing projects for upwards of 400 campers as a whole this summer, to planning worships, to just talking with the families of Grundy County. I have abeen abundantly blessed. The difference I saw in our campers' lives, from who came in on a Sunday morning, and then to see the individuals that drove out of our camp the following Saturday morning, reminds me how much a single week can change a teenager. To them it isn't just a week spent helping others, to most of them they learn something more, they learn that God wants to be their friend, that God is there for them, and we encourage them to spread God's love and light once they head to the "valley below." Seeing the campers' lives change in a single week only caused me to realize how much my life has changed in an entire summer. Without your faithful prayers and support, I could not have learned what God had in store for me. I know that I am to experience the love of God, and continue to spread that love with all.

I pray that y'all remain safe and you will always remain in my prayers for what you have done for me this past summer. Thank you!

Kristin Griswold

Thank You

To the members of the Sycamore UMC "Military Ministry's",

My name is SPC. John Z. Talmage. I wanted to thank you all very very much for the care package I received! You are the reason us military members do what we do! You are great and wonderful people! When we soldiers recieve these care packages it boosts our moral very much, even in the most difficult of times! I wish everyone cared, prayed, and supported us troops like you all do! Once again thank you very much for the prayers and package! Also the personal letters from Alice Larimer, Kathy, Carolyn Acosta, and Brett Brancato were a blessing! Personal letters are a great thing for a soldier to receive! Please thank each one of them individually for me! And please Thank Grandma Georgina for me! She is a great and blessed woman!

Thank you very much and God Bless,

John Zachary Talmage

Military Ministry News

We recently received a message from SSG Andrew Sheehan and his wife Madalyn from Columbus GA. Andrew writes: I would like to thank all of you for your kind and thoughtful items you sent to my men and myself while we were deployed. I know I speak for all of them, that it makes our jobs so much easier and more enjoyable knowing that there are people at home thinking of us. There is still much work to be done there, but it can be accomplished with the kind of support you have shown. God Bless. Rangers Lead the Way!

At our October meeting we prepared boxes to be sent to 2PVT Samuel Summers and SPC Christopher Isabel as well as letters to Timothy Stewart. Our MM Team will be hosting the Sunday Morning Coffee Time on November 6th, be sure to stop and have some refreshments. Wear-able Yellow Ribbons will be available for everyone that day!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

"What does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6: 8

On October 8th United Methodist Missionaries, Rev. Nkemba and Mbwizu Ndjungu, were with us to share stories of their work in Cameroon, Africa. One of their needs was yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks to teach the Cameroon women and girls how to make baby sweaters and hats. Hopefully, this would become a source of income for them. Immediately we responded to our sisters in Christ as we filled two boxes with an assortment of colorful yarn and needles from our "yarn closet."

A big thank you to the anonymous knitter for the surprise donation of seven triangular Prayer Shawls, all made in lovely assorted colors.

Would you like to learn how to knit or crochet? Please contact us to set up a convenient meeting time!

<u>November Meeting Dates</u>
Monday, November 7, 9:30 a.m.
Monday, November 21, 9:30 a.m.
<u>Questions? Please call:</u>
Phyllis Anderson (815) 899-9957
Jeanne Johnson (815) 895-5594

"What does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
Micah 6: 8

Coat Ministry Continues

Just a reminder… The Coat Ministry season is in full swing. Donations of winter clothing and coats are always welcome, and can be dropped in the bin outside the Food Pantry.

November

8:30 AM Sunday Worship 8:45 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Sunday Worship 10:00 AM Stewardship Bible Study 10:00 AM Children's Sunday School	9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (1st & 3rd) 9:00 AM Moms-In-Christ 12:00 PM Sycamore Food Pantry	9:00 AM Christian Conditioning 9:00 AM Craft Group (1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th) 9:00 AM David: Seeking A Life Like His 9:05 AM ABC Preschool Chapel (1st & 3rd) 9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music 10:30 AM Preschool Parables with Mrs. S and MDO 11:30 AM Clergy Staff Meeting 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Music 1:00 PM Craft Group (2nd) 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study: Living Beyond Yourself	6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:05 AM ABC Preschool Chapel (1st & 3rd) 9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music 12:50 PM ABC Preschool Chapel (1st & 3rd) 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Music 3:15 PM Christian Kids' Conditioning 5:00 PM Sonshine Ringers 5:30 PM With Joy! Dinners 6:00 PM Confirmation: 2012 Confirmands 6:15 PM Children's Choirs 7:00 PM Adult Choir	9:00 AM Christian Conditioning 9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study: The Journey 10:45 AM Worship Staff (2nd & 4th) 12:00 PM Church Staff Meeting (2nd & 4th) 1:00 PM ABC Preschool Music 7:00 PM Adult Handbells 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study: Bad Girls of the Bible	9:20 AM ABC Preschool Music	5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 PM Rachel Circle	2 6:15 PM The Bible's Story	3 11:00 AM Leadership Meeting	4	5 9:00 AM Boy Scout Food Drive
6 10:00 AM Acolytes 11:30 AM Endowments Q&A Luncheon 4:30 PM Jr. High Youth 6:30 PM Sr. High Youth	7 6:00 PM Budget Boosters 6:00 PM Finance Committee 7:00 PM Church Council	8 9:30 AM Mary Circle 6:00 PM Staff Parish Committee	9 9:30 AM Esther Circle 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee	10 6:00 PM UMM Dinner	11	12
13 11:30 AM Family, Food and Fun	14 6:30 PM UMCOR Meeting	15 7:00 PM Leading Ladies	16 1:15 PM History & Archives	17 6:30 PM Military Ministry 7:00 PM Trustees	18	19
20 4:30 PM Jr. High Youth 6:30 PM Sr. High Youth	21 6:30 PM Caring Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM Adult Ministry Meeting 7:00 PM Ruth Circle	22 1:00 PM UMW Mission Team Meeting 6:00 PM Evangelism Committee 6:30 PM Worship Committee 7:00 PM Adult Choir	23	24 *Thanksgiving—Offices Closed* 	25 *Offices Closed*	26
27	28 6:30 PM Discipleship Committee	29	30 6:30 PM Cantata Dress Rehearsal			

Open/Lock Team

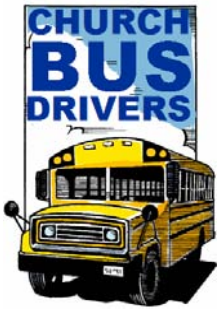
11/6	Marv Wildenradt
11/13	Leroy Greathouse
11/20	Rich Diehl
11/27	Lane McMillion

8:30 a.m. Service

Jerry Schultz
Dave Leifheit
Mary Lou Eubanks
Marybeth Hutchison
Nancy Leifheit

10:00 a.m. Service

Richard Graham
Debbie Elleson
John O'Connell
Renae Wilkinson
Norm Bodda
Bill Riddle
Mark Larsen



Church Van

Nov 6	Jim and Marcia Stoddard
Nov 13	John and Linda Toles
Nov 20	Kara and Michael Morris
Nov 27	Tom and Julie Mauer

The deadline to submit articles for the December newsletter is Saturday, November 19.

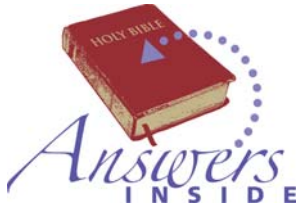
Please e-mail all newsletter articles to:

office@sycamoreumc.org to make sure your submissions are received.

Church Staff e-mail directory

Rev. Bill Landis, Sr. Pastor_____pastorbill@sycamoreumc.org
Rev. Harlene Harden, Associate Pastor_____pastorharlene@sycamoreumc.org

Craig Fritz, Organist_____craigfritz@sycamoreumc.org
Barb Johnson, Mother's Day Out Director_____barbjohnson@sycamoreumc.org
Jim McCue, Business Director_____jimmccue@sycamoreumc.org
Joe Munro, Youth Director_____joemunro@sycamoreumc.org
Bev Rauch, Music Director_____bevrauch@sycamoreumc.org
Julie Sgarlata, Education Director_____juliesgarlata@sycamoreumc.org
Jennifer Snow, Administrative Assistant_____jennifersnow@sycamoreumc.org
Lisa Szydlowski, ABC Preschool Director_____abcpreschool@sycamoreumc.org



Education News

WHEN IS YOUR GOD TIME?

Time: A Most Priceless Resource. What are you doing with it?

Attention all families! Save the date to start your Christmas *Journey*! Join us for *The Journey, Walking on the Road to Bethlehem* starting on November 20, 2011 at 11:30am for family style lunch and bring your family closer together as we all join Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.

"If you think you know the story of Jesus' birth, think again! This wonderful book sets us on a journey to the times and characters of Christmas so that we experience the birth of Christ in our lives in a new way."
Joel C. Hunter, author of Church Distributed

Following the luncheon, one hour age appropriate sections of *The Journey* will be available for children, teens, and adults. Spend this advent in quality time with family and God! Classes will meet November 20, December 4, 11, and 18th for the family tailored sections. The Monday evening section will begin November 28 and a Wednesday evening section will begin November 30.

Sign ups for pre-purchasing the books will be in the concourse on November 6, 13, and 20th. Cost of the books are $10 for the devotional book, $18 for the hardcover book *The Journey* , and $8 for the youth edition study guide. Materials for children will be handouts (no cost). Book use is optional, and not required for participation in the study.

In addition, unused study books from prior years will be available for purchase for individual study and contemplation of the Christmas season.

UMCOR Pork Roast Dinner

The UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) team wants to thank everyone for their participation in and support of our Pork Roast Fundraiser last month. We were pleased with the proceeds of around $900 and 120 people served. The funds will be used to help defray costs traveling to the Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. There are still spots open on our team for the trip which leaves Saturday April 7, 2012 for Louisiana and arrive back in Sycamore Saturday April 14th. If you have gone before, maybe it's time to consider going again. If you have never gone with us, now is the time for you to follow our founder, John Wesley's Rule: Do all the good you can. You will meet wonderful people there and your spirit will be renewed. If interested contact Nancy Davis (815) 210-6151 or E-mail: nancymeier63@gmail.com. Scholarship money is available so don't let the cost be a deterrent. Come to our next meeting November 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

MISSIONS CORNER

Music Matters

You are invited to a unique worship opportunity on Saturday, **November 12, at 5:00 p.m**. with our guest musician and speaker **ADAM BROOKS WEBBER**. Adam has a B.A., M.S., and PhD., and has taught computer science at many major universities, but felt called to become a minister, and has been doing an internship at a church in DeKalb. He is also a talented musician and songwriter. He will be sharing his faith journey as part of our Saturday Celebration service. So invite friends! This would be a great event to invite people to who are wary of religion because of intellectual or scientific questions.

Twenty-one people from our congregation are going to Rockford on Friday, Nov. 11 for the GAITHER CONCERT.

Another wonderful musical event to put on your calendar is our annual **CHRISTMAS CHORAL CELEBRATION** on **Saturday, Dec. 3, and Sunday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m.** Child care is provided. The Junior Choir, Youth Ensemble, Adult Choir, and various other ensembles and instrumentalists will be featured in GLORY! TWENTY-ELEVEN. Our guest artist will be Christine Mertens on oboe. We will also feature our own flutist Chanette Oeser, The Good News! Men's Quartet, Marcia and Paul Watson and Phyllis Horst, the Men's Trio, the Mixed Quartet, and more. The evening will end with a sing-along HALLELUJAH CHORUS.

The choir was very proud of their own pianist Craig Fritz as he shared his touching faith journey on Laity Sunday. I was also proud of choir member Jen Snow when I attended WAIT UNTIL DARK, the most recent Stagecoach Players production, which she directed.

The Adult Choir has been happy to welcome several new members—June Cribarro, Lynn Crawford, Jennifer Stramaglia, Roger & Marianne Sackett. It's a joy and a pleasure to have them sing with us! Spiritwind has also welcomed Rebecca Shortridge and Kristin Kimbark. We were also sad to bid farewell to long-time member Ed Rosado. The choir visited him at Bethany Healthcare on a Wednesday evening before his move to Edwardsville, Illinois. We wish him and Elaine all the best.

Here's the schedule for November for children and youth:

Wed., Nov. 2	(Adult Choir will come at 6:30 p.m. to be part of the Jr. Choir practice)	
Sun., Nov. 6	Both	Junior (with Adult Choir)
Sun., Nov. 13	Both	Cherubs
Sun., Nov. 20	Both	Kid's Choir
		YOUTH ENSEMBLE PRACTICE AFTER THE 10:00 SERVICE

NO CHILDREN'S OR ADULT CHOIR WED., NOV. 23 (Adult Choir **only** will practice Tues., Nov. 22, 7 p.m.)

Wed., Nov. 30	Junior Choir & Youth Ensemble	Christmas production practice
	(Junior Choir comes at the regular time of 6:15, but stays until ABOUT 8:00 p.m., Youth Ens. comes at 6:45)	
Fri., Dec. 2	6:45 p.m.	Junior Choir & Youth Ensemble final Christmas production practice

Blessings,
Bev Rauch

Adam Brooks Webber In Concert November 12 5:00 p.m.

ABC Preschool Ministry News

October was a flurry of activity! School pictures, we tested our hearing and vision testing, Butter Braid Fundraiser, classroom pumpkin parties, participation in the Sycamore Pumpkin Festival and another Sycamore Fire Department visit. We are geared up and ready to jump into November!

We thank you for all your support and help to make the Butter Braid Fundraiser a success. We sold 100 braids!

Our October Mission Project will be the collection of items for our Thanksgiving meal baskets. We will have sign-up sheets available in the Concourse if you would like to offer donations.

Please note that we are now collecting Campbell's labels for our Labels for Education Program. The Campbell's Company has a wonderful program that allows us to clip and turn in labels from their products and redeem them for points to spend in their education catalog. Please cut out the UPC code on the acceptable products and drop them off in the ABC Preschool mailbox located at the south end of the Concourse. See the table by the bulletin board for more information.

Our annual Harvest Feast will be held on Thursday and Friday, November 17th and 18th this year. During this celebration we gather with all our preschool families to share in a Thanksgiving Feast, the children sing songs and make special crafts to share too. It's a wonderful way to share all our blessings with one another.

ABC invites you to the Barnes and Noble in DeKalb for our annual Book Faire on Monday, November 28th. We are taking over the store!! The kids will sing, we will have a craft area and a story telling area for all to share! See any staff member for a certificate that you can use for your shopping and ABC Preschool will get a portion of the proceeds donated to the school to purchase books!

We thank Sycamore United Methodist Church for all your support of ABC Preschool. We look forward to working together on many projects during the year.

Blessings,
The ABC Preschool Staff

Please Remember

Bulletin articles are due the Wednesday of publication. Please keep bulletin articles and announcements short, as we all work together to save resources of both paper and money. Questions? Call Jennifer in the Church Office. Thank you!

Live A God-Pleasing Life

On Laity Sunday, Craig Fritz spoke about "Take It Up a Notch". He shared with the congregation a little about his personal faith journey, and how sometimes we must step out of our comfort zone to grow in our faith and spiritual relationship with God. The commitment you make to the church whether it be time, talents, or financial, will be a blessing to both you and the church. If you have not already done so, please complete the Commitment Form to the **right** and return it to the church office.

Sycamore UMC offers electronic giving, which allows you to make donations on a scheduled, automatic basis. If you already embrace the use of debit cards, on-line bill pay, or direct deposit, you will especially appreciate electronic giving. It is convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our church. You can find more information about electronic giving on our On-line Giving tab at our website www.sycamoreumc.org or pick up a brochure from the church office.

Sermons We See

By Edgar Guest

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are the ones who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.

I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do;
For I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.
When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind
Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me
To become as big and thoughtful as I know that friend to be.
And all travelers can witness that the best of guides today
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way.

One good man teaches many, men believe what they behold;
One deed of kindness noticed is worth forty that are told.
Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear,
For right living speaks a language which to every one is clear.
Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,
I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day.

Poem used during sermon by Pastor Harlene Harden 10/23/2011

Live a God-pleasing life!

Commitments to Christ and our church

I commit to be faithful with my time:

I will spend an average of _____minutes per day in personal Bible reading over the next year.

I will faithfully worship _____ times per month.

I will attend _____ group Bible study(ies) per year.

I commit to be faithful with my talent:

I will do the following: read scripture, serve on a committee, join a mission team, teach Sunday School or Bible Study, or

_____

_____

I commit to be faithful with my money:

As a steward of God's resources, my/our commitment of my/our income to Him will be $_____ per week for the Operating Budget to support the ministries of Sycamore United Methodist Church.

(Prayerfully consider the faith goal of tithing)

I/we also commit to the future of this congregation by supporting the Building Fund/Mortgage Fund in the amount of $_____ per week.

Name(s) _____

_____

Sycamore United Methodist Church

160 Johnson Avenue
Sycamore, Illinois 60178

Phone: (815) 895-9113
Fax: (815) 895-1042
E-mail: jennifersnow@sycamoreumc.org

Open Hearts… Open Minds… Open Doors

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.SYCAMOREUMC.ORG

Non-Profit Organization
Permit Number 76
Sycamore, IL 60178
Postage Paid

Annual Thanksgiving Feast

Youth LIFE Mission Fundraiser

November 16 at 5:30 p.m.

(special With Joy! dinner)

Free-will offering will be taken