

November 2011 Pastor's Report

I am excited to share with you what has been happening over the past couple of months. As you know, our Church Conference was held last month with several other congregations at the Tuscola United Methodist Church. At that meeting, our elect leadership was set for next year, lay speakers were approved, and the 2012 budget set. We also sought to move through the difficult and yet necessary process of holding people accountable to their membership vows.

I want to share that every year multiple people are asked to serve in various ways of leadership and a certain percentage decline. My first two years at Sullivan experienced about 10-15% who were asked declining. However, this year something that I've never experienced happened. Every person I contacted (*except 1*) responded with a yes! A willingness to serve is an excellent indicator of the health of our congregation.

I have also continued to work with the Jr. & Sr. High Groups. Each continues to see new young people participating. I am most pleased that on most Sundays we have 20-25 youth in our worship services. When the groups meet on Sunday evening, most were in church earlier that morning! We also took 26 to Saltfork Paintball last month – *25 actually played* – but all had a great time!

We continue to work with the Bon-Ton stores toward Community Day. For a \$5 donation to our Mission Trip, folks then receive a coupon book good at all Bon-Ton stores – (*Carson's, Bergner's, etc.*). We are working through the Mattoon Carson's, and were the top selling non-profit! This will entitle our group to a percentage of the money from the coupon books sold by the Carson's staff.

As you will see, our congregation continues to respond faithfully in their financial support. They are also responding faithfully in their worship attendance. In September, our weekly worship average was up 10 over last September – 177 compared to 167. In October, our weekly worship average was up 22.8 over October last year. Our average for the year is currently 174 compared to 157 per week during the same period last year.

Nancy Craig continues to settle in and do wonderfully in her new role. The Praise Team is gelling well, and the choir has even picked up several members. Multimedia is being increasingly utilized to help set moods and offering various experiences. Most recently was the way we were able to honor and remember those who have died over the past year. Nancy is also putting together a tribute to our veterans!

I am pleased to report that we have made it through the Book of Revelation. Our Advent series is entitled, "It's Looking A Lot Like Christmas," and we will be exploring what 'Christmas' often robs us of due to how it is usually celebrated. Our schedule will be as follows:

Sunday, Nov. 27 "Hyper Christmas"
Sunday, Dec. 4 Children's Program (9 & 10:30)
Sunday, Dec. 11 "Plastic Christmas"
Sunday, Dec. 18 "Blue Christmas"
Saturday, Dec. 24 Choir Cantata – 5 p.m. only
Sunday, Dec. 25 "Perfect Christmas" (9:45 only)
Sunday, Jan. 1 Wesley's Covenant Service (9:45 only)

In January, I will be preaching on "Holy Habits Rarely Seen" as we explore and work through what I hope will be our congregation's Vision Statement. I will be proposing at our Ad Council meeting the following Vision Statement: *Sullivan First UMC: **Going** where Jesus goes, **Doing** what Jesus does, and **Being** who Jesus is!* Our devotional time will be from Luke 10: 25-37.

In addition, since our last meeting, I have conducted a funeral, a wedding, and have begun pre-marital counseling with a couple planning to marry in March. I have also met with several committees and had many counseling sessions with members of our church family.

Finally, I want to thank the congregation for their generosity and great deal of encouragement in October for Pastor's Appreciation. It was very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Charliam W. Renner

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee did not meet last month.

Currently I am looking at sound issues in the sanctuary. We seem to have some of our church family who are unable to hear the pastor on Sunday mornings. The printed sermons that are made available are very helpful but it would be nice for everyone to be able to hear if possible.

We are looking forward to adding new members to the worship committee after the first of the year. These additional people will help us be more effective in our work for the church and our Lord.

Theresa Shaw

Nurture Committee

The annual cookout at the Obrecht's was held on October 9. About 35 people attended and enjoyed an evening of good food and Christian fellowship.

Jean Taylor and Dyanne Dudley are checking attendance each week and sending postcards to church family members who have missed three or more Sundays in a row. This seems to be working well and Jean and Dyanne deserve thanks for the time and effort they are giving for this ministry.

The Nurture Committee will be sending cards of encouragement to our college students as they prepare for semester exams. Also we plan to send a card and plate of goodies to our shut-ins and nursing home residents.

Finally plans are underway for our annual Harvest Dinner. Over one hundred people have already signed up to share in this special dinner on Sunday, November 20.

Outreach Report

Outreach happenings/workings since last Ad Council meeting:

- Homecoming parade presence
- Hosted Missionary dinner and program for Honduras Missionaries Ron and Loretta Davidson on October 27th
- Purchased 300 nine volt batteries for youth to hand out in neighborhood during time change and some detectors
- Working with Education and Nurture committees on a children's caroling night December 5th.

Finance Report

Sullivan First United Methodist Church													
Monthly Needs												Yearly	
Accumulated	23304	46608	69912	93216	116520	139824	165304	188068	211372	234676			\$ 279,648
Monthly	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Offering 2011	\$ 34,135	18,994	24,347	19,191	26,512	17,433	24,915	18,068	17,899	28,714			\$ 230,208
Needs + or -	\$ 10,831	(4,310)	1,043	(4,113)	3,208	(5,871)	1,611	(5,236)	(5,405)	5,410			\$ 42,140
Percent + or -	46%	-18%	4%	-18%	14%	-25%	7%	-22%	-23%	23%			
Year to Date %	46%	14%	11%	4%	6%	0%	0%	0%	-3%	-3%			-2%
Offering	\$ 34,135	18,994	24,347	19,191	26,512	17,433	24,915	18,068	17,899	28,714	-	-	\$ 230,208
Disbursements	\$ 24,323	17,795	18,979	16,923	21,121	17,599	22,403	22,832	23,084	22,185			\$ 207,244
Budget +or - \$\$	\$ 9,812	1,199	5,368	2,268	5,391	(166)	2,512	(4,764)	(5,185)	6,529	-	-	\$ 22,964
Budget +or - PCT	40%	7%	28%	13%	26%	-1%	11%	-21%	-22%	29%			11%
2010 offering	\$ 18,998	15,873	21,157	16,510	28,896	15,270	17,597	18,892	16,563	23,816			\$ 193,572
PCT +or -	80%	20%	15%	16%	-8%	14%	42%	-4%	8%	21%			19%
Fund Balances													
General Fund	\$ 5,404	3,604	5,966	5,234	7,625	5,445	7,416	3,193	91	4,520			
Savings Fund	\$ 12,967	15,967	18,974	21,974	24,974	26,987	26,987	26,987	24,904	27,004			
Designated Fund	\$ 7,559	8,271	9,404	11,274	8,649	8,874	4,685	4,396	2,794	2,829			
Campus Fund	\$ 2,199	1,627	2,811	2,250	2,250	1,661	-	1,689	782	1,706			
Memorial Fund	\$ 6,938	8,071	7,886	8,066	8,066	8,096	8,212	8,212	9,142	9,167			
Summary	Giving for October was good. We are still behind budget but by only 2%. For the next two months we need \$ 42,140 to maintain needs. There are many positives. Spending is 11% down and we are 19% ahead of last years giving. The greatest asset is the \$ 31,500 that we have in reserve. Regardless of how giving ends up we will have great year. God has blessed this Church.												

Ad Council Minutes

November 15, 2011

Call to Order – 7:02

Present: Mike Craig, Jim Rentfrow, Sandy Stone, Theresa Shaw, Susan Connor, Linda Grose, Mike Miller, Darla Schibur, John Plummer , Steve Bonnett, Pastor Renner

Absent: Laura Elder, Nancy Schaljo, Shelly Wheeler, Shane Ruppert, Joyce Shellabarger

Also Present: Bill Black

Meeting opened with reading of mission statement

Celebrated/ discussed 2011 accomplishments

Partnering with church in La Ceibeta presented by Mike Craig presented
-John P moved to approve, Mike M seconded – approved

Sign is currently in design process

Proposed all church meeting January 8 following church services

Discussed leadership retreat in 2012

Devotion: Pastor Renner-Luke 10:25-37 “Discipleship and the church: have we got it backwards” by Stephen Manskar

Pastor Renner discussed our visioning process and challenged the committee to pray about the vision for our church before our next meeting in January

8:46 p.m. Adjournment with John closing in prayer