



Oak Grove United Methodist Church
6440 OLD STATESVILLE ROAD
CHARLOTTE NC 28269-1782

January 2016
SUNDAY SCHEDULE:
Sunday School – 9:30AM
Worship – 10:30AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Phone & Fax Number – 704-596-4084
Pastor's Home -980-339-5903
Pastor's Cell -1-828-0995
Web Address – www.oakgroveumc.net
Pastor's email – ogumc.pastor@gmail.com
Church office email—office@oakgroveumc.net
Secretary email—oakgrovesecretary@gmail.com

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The Oak Grove Greeter

January 2016



From the Pastor's Pen Freedom to Resolve

I write this upon reflecting and anticipating...upon looking back and upon hoping in looking ahead. It is that time of year! Yes, 2016 is upon us. Have you looked back at 2015? Have you thought about the New Year, 2016? If so, have you made resolutions? Through our reflecting and anticipating, we analyze where we are in life. "Oh, if I could do it all over again, I would have..." is a phrase we have all heard. Have you said it? I have. Chalk it up to experience as we learn from our mistakes, knowing that we can't go back...that we

must move ahead. The New Year, 2016, gives all of us the opportunity for a fresh start. And as United Methodists, we believe that God gives us freedom to make our own decisions. Granted, certain events are out of our control (such as illness, aging, family dynamics, etc.), but our decisions, whether in action or reaction are ours to make. But what guides our decisions? Will 2016 be a year of reacting? Or will it be the year of acting out our visions, hopes, and dreams...of being proactive? So, I ask of myself, and I ask of you to ask yourself, "Have I made resolutions for 2016?" Without them, without our determination to be proactive, we become much like a rudderless ship, drifting aimlessly upon the sea of life. Next, I ask myself, and I ask of you to ask yourself, "Do my resolutions align with my purpose in life?" Resolutions, most often,

deal with personal goals such as losing weight, getting finances in order, etc. But what about our purpose, about why God has given us life and a new year and a new opportunity to be resolved in living for Him? Please join me now in resolving to be proactive with God in this New Year of 2016. Be resolved to read your Bible daily, to pray often, to attend worship services regularly, to volunteer in helping others, to spend time with other Christians in small-group Bible studies, etc. Be assured, as Oak Grove's pastor, announcements are soon to come with opportunities for all of us to grow in such spiritual disciplines.

Let us all be resolved, upon our departure from this earth, NOT to say, "Oh, if I could do it all over again, I would have..."-
Pastor Bob



MLK, Jr. Celebration January 16

Please make plans to join us for the conference's 2016 Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, hosted by First UMC Salisbury, on Saturday, January 16 from 10:00am-2:00pm. Bishop Larry Goodpaster will be our featured speaker. A contribution of \$5 per person will help defray the cost of lunch.

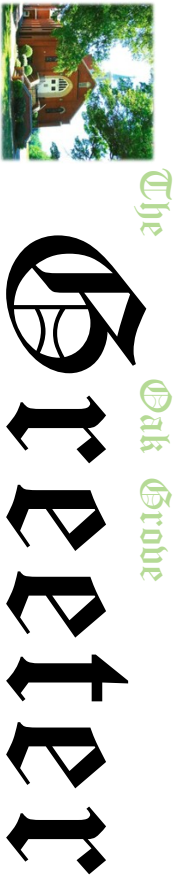


A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU!!!!!!
A very big thank you to Jessica and Ryan Wilson , Joan Carrier, Pat Barker, Linda Hylton, and all the other parents who helped make the 2015 Christmas Play a big success! It's always a blessing to see the children exemplify the reason for the season!!!



January 2016

The monthly newsletter of Oak Grove United Methodist Church



Oak Grove United Methodist Church Makes a Difference in Lives

With Special Thanks

For the kindness you've shown.

Thank you so much for letting us use your church!

Brothers and Sisters of
Linda Kay Williams

Greetings to All! It's that time of year again to think of children standing in the cold waiting on their bus, shivering because they have no coat. Once again we're partnering with Ranson Middle School to help provide jackets for those in need. To make it easier on many, I have a suggestion. A donation of \$25 will purchase one school spirit wear Hoodie sold by Ranson's Booster Club.

For those who don't know, a Hoodie is simply a very heavy sweatshirt with a hood. When my boys were in school that's pretty much all they wore in reference to cold weather outerwear. So if shopping's not your thing, simply put \$25 in the offering plate and mark it as Ranson Coat or Coat. We will make sure Ranson gets it and it is used to purchase a hoodie for a student.

It's a win-win-win situation. You get to help a person in need plus obtain a tax write off. Students get to stay warmer while waiting for their bus or sitting in a cool classroom or house. And the Booster Club makes money to help purchase needed athletic equipment for the school.

Blessings to you,
-Pat Barker



LEARN CPR You Can Do It!

There will be **CPR training at Oak Grove UMC** on the morning of Saturday, February 6th, from 9:00am until noon. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are interested, please let me know. We especially encourage all volunteers working with children, ushers, and other church workers to attend. The cost to Oak Grove will be \$35 per person and any donations would be appreciated.

Thanks so much.
Joan Carrier

Called and Gifted to Lead

We want to invest in YOU! We want to empower YOU to develop your capacity for leadership.

There are openings available in the next **Called and Gifted to Lead** workshop! It is a 48 hour experience during which **clergy and lay ministry professionals** remember your call and best ministry moments, celebrate your strengths, consider your current ministry, identify development needs, and create a 3-5 year plan for growth. Using feedback, small group experiences, and individual and group leadership coaching, you are able to create a self-directed, individualized plan for your next steps in ministry. Once you have completed the workshop, you are eligible for up to \$1000 in scholarship funds to resource your leadership development plan.

The next workshop is scheduled for **February 24-26 at The Catholic Conference Center in Hickory**. The program is limited to 30 participants. If you are interested, please complete the application <http://leadwnc.org/forms-2/> and send it, with \$100 registration fee, to Rev. Kim Ingram at P. O. Box 18005, Charlotte, NC 28218. This is a \$1000 value for only \$100 cost. **The deadline for registration is January 11, 2016.** This workshop is sponsored and funded by the Leadership Development Team of WNC. For more information, contact Kim Ingram at kingram@wncumc.org.



We are collecting personal care and hygiene items to be distributed to the homeless people that come to Room in the Inn. Please bring soap. Shampoo, razors, toothpaste, shaving cream, etc. to the church. Thank you for your generous help for people in need in our community.

DISCIPLES PANTRY

In the month of December, we were able to help to feed over **80** families.

This month we are especially collecting canned goods of all types.

Thank you for helping us stock our pantry!

Memorials

**In Memory of
Madeline Brickey**
James Brickey
Andrea Wilson

**In Memory of
William C. Brown**
Kay Brown

**In Memory of
Judy Finney**
JoAnn Walker
Perry & Kathy Philips
Dorothy, Faith & Mary Ziglar
Mary Ann Scoggins
Nancy Hammond

**In Memory of
A.P. & Mildred Howard**
Tom & Margaret Howard

and Honorariums

**In Memory of
Jimmy & Danny McWhirter**
Charlene McWhirter

**In Honor of
Woody & Anne Maxwell**
Carol & Tim Taylor

**In Honor of
Danny Brown Family
Geri Brown & Family
Linda G. Brown
Pastor Bob & Janis Roten
Betty Phillips
Nancy Hammond
Mary Ann Scoggins
Kay Brown**

*You may designate Memorials and Honoraria for any Oak Grove UMC ministry or fund. Memorials not designated by the donor will be directed (first) to the designation predetermined by the surviving family or, (second) to the default designation (currently, budgeted expenses) determined by the Oak Grove UMC Church Council.

HELP WANTED!

Help at Saturn Nursing Home Outreach
Just Show Up!
No experience needed
3pm, first Wednesday of each month

125th anniversary photos are available at the church. 8x10 photos are 10 dollars each or 20 dollars each in a frame. The proceeds will now go towards another heritage project at the church! Contact Church office, Ryan Wilson or Brent Blumberg for purchase or for information.



Laity Events in 2016 - Save the Date

Mark your calendar now with these upcoming events for the Metro District laity.

Lay Servant Ministry training:

Attend any training that fits with your schedule. The same basic and advanced course will be offered at all locations. The advanced course is "Life Together in the United Methodist Connection." You

must register by the deadline listed. We need to make sure we have the correct number of leaders, classrooms, etc. so we will not accept late registrations.

April 2 (8:30 am registration, 9 am - 4 pm class) - April 3 (2 pm - 5 pm) at Westford UMC, Concord

April 3, 10, 17, 24 6:30 pm - 9 pm Trinity UMC, Charlotte

April 4, 11, 18, 25 6:30 pm - 9 pm at St. Mark's UMC, Charlotte

Registration deadline for the above classes is **March 17th**

April 23 (8:30 am registration, 9 am - 4 pm class) - April 24 (2 pm - 5 pm) at Mouzon UMC, Charlotte

Registration deadline for the April 23 - 24 classes is **April 7th**

Laity Roundtable: Training for laity in the Metro District

March 5th (bad weather date of March 6th) at University City UMC, Charlotte

First session is 9 am - 10:15 am and the second session is 10:45 am - noon. You may come to either session of a focus group or choose to attend two focus groups (the same material will be presented at each session). Registration is required. Deadline to register is February 25th. (Note: if Laity Roundtable held on March 6th, focus groups will be held 2 pm - 3:15 pm and 3:45 pm - 5 pm)

Focus Groups: Staff Parish Relations Committee, Lay Leader, Finance Committee, Communications/Websites, Leadership Development (Nominations), Trustees, Church Vitality and the Laity

Laity Celebration: Recognition of Laity Service Award Recipients: October 16th Location TBD More information about this event will be available but note the change in date of this important event.

If you have any questions, contact the Associate Lay Leader for your Missional Network or Jatana Royster, Metro District Lay Leader (jatanaroyster@gmail.com or 704-454-5333).

