



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

March 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 -1-828-773-0995

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

March 2016



About Easter

For us at Oak Grove, our looking ahead to the great celebration of Easter Sunday began with our Ash Wednesday Service on February 10th. Now, in these 40 days of Lent, we are looking ahead to Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday on March 20th. Then, during the evenings of March 21-23, worship services are planned at 7:00PM with our lay speakers preaching. On Maundy Thursday, I look forward to leading the service and administering Holy Communion. Next, Friday will be a special "Service of Darkness" as we remember the day of Jesus' crucifixion and burial. Saturday brings the traditional, special day for children as they gather to hunt for eggs from 10:00AM until Noon. And for the next day...

Easter Sunday begins at the cemetery for our Sunrise Worship Service at 7:00AM. Breakfast follows in the fellowship hall at 7:45AM. Sunday School and Worship follow at regular times, 9:30AM and 10:30AM.

For most of us, the above scheduling comes as no surprise. We are following tradition. AND please understand that we

are not alone. Regardless of denominational differences, we join with Christians all over the world in celebrating what makes us Christians...our celebrating the historical truth that, "He is risen!" Hallelujah! Yes, Easter is all about our celebrating the truth of our risen Lord. And Easter is for our celebrating the gift of eternal life. Jesus Christ rose from the grave AND so shall we through faith in Him.

But how did the traditions of Easter come to be what they are? Hopefully, you will find the following from *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* interesting and educational.

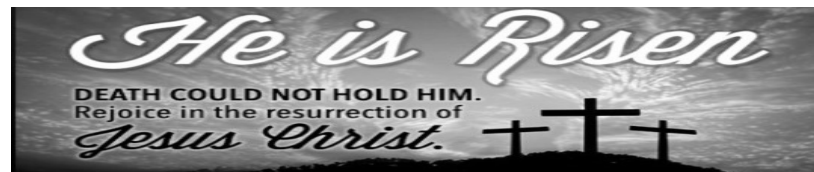
Easter. The Feast of the Resurrection of Christ, being the greatest and oldest feast of the Christian Church. Its importance is emphasized liturgically by the long preparation of *Lent and *Passiontide, by the special ceremonies of *Holy Week, and by the following *Paschaltide, marked in the W. Church by the frequent reiteration of *Alleluia at the *Mass and in the Divine *Office, as the expression of Easter joy. In the ancient Church the *catechumens, after watching all Saturday night, were baptized early on Easter Day and received Communion. The night before Easter was celebrated by the illumination of the churches and even whole cities. In the W. Church the ceremonies were put back to the afternoon in the 10th cent. and to the morning of *Holy

Saturday in the 14th, so that in the RC Church the Vigil, with the first Easter Mass, came to be celebrated on Saturday. A similar development took place in the E. Church, though here in addition Mattins of Easter Sunday begins at midnight on Saturday-Sunday, followed by the Liturgy of Easter Day. In the RC Church in 1951 it became permissible to offer the first Mass of Easter during the night of Saturday-Sunday, and in 1955 such celebration became obligatory. (For details of the service, see PASCHAL VIGIL SERVICE.) The BCP provides special anthems for use on Easter Day in place of the *Venite; CW throughout Eastertide.

The derivation of the name 'Easter' is uncertain. Acc. to *Bede, it is connected with an Anglo-Saxon spring goddess 'Eostre'. At any rate it seems clear that, as in the case of Christmas (q.v.), the Christian feast of Easter has superseded an old pagan festival. The popular custom of exchanging 'Easter eggs' is of very ancient origin.

The date of the Easter feast is determined by the Paschal Full Moon, its extreme limits being 21 Mar. and 25 Apr. In the early Church, the two principal methods of computation were those of *Alexandria (owing to its astronomical resources) and *Rome.

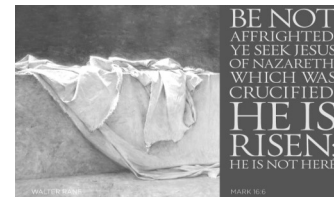
Pastor Bob



Holy Week at Oak Grove UMC

Schedule of Services

Sunday, March 20	Palm Sunday	
Monday, March 21	Worship 7:00pm	
Tuesday, March 22	Worship 7:00pm	
Wednesday, March 23	Worship 7:00pm	
Thursday, March 24	Maundy/Thursday Service 7:00pm	
Friday, March 25	Service of Darkness 7:00pm	
Saturday, March 26	Easter Egg Hunt 10:00am - noon	
Sunday, March 27	Sunrise Service 7:00am (at Oak Grove Cemetery)	



Breakfast (FH)	7:45am
Sunday School	9:30am
Worship	10:30am

Saint James Men's Chorus coming Back to OGUMC Aug. 21, 2016

"Jehovah was the first chorus director, as he reminded Job. After he laid Earth's foundation, "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." So the Lord may have a special fondness for the sound of a choir, and the St. James Male Chorus has acted on that belief for 60 years."

"Performers don't preach or proselytize during a performance, but they make an infectious joyful noise. Through occasional dropped notes and at least one case of dropped trousers, they've raised smiles and bolstered souls - sometimes the souls of the singers themselves, when dark times came - since Dwight D. Eisenhower was president and Elvis Presley sought his first hit record."

"They tease each other constantly about age, which is fitting: Only a couple of the roughly two dozen singers were born after the 1940s. But this isn't a place for soloists to display the range or power of their voices; it's a place for friends to display their love of God and each other."

BY LAWRENCE TOPPMAN
ltoppman@charlotteobserver.com



March 2016

The monthly newsletter of Oak Grove United Methodist Church

The Oak Grove Greeter

Oak Grove United Methodist Church Makes a Difference in Lives

Words

These are not my "words" but are from a Carlton brand of greeting card that caught my eye while trying to put together a little message of appreciation directed to members of The Oak Grove United Methodist Church of which I am a member. However, the words express MY feelings:

"God makes the most wonderful people, then lovingly shows them the way to share their gifts and their caring to brighten the world day by day. They make such a difference to others with a visit, a card, or a call...God chooses these wonderful people to be THE BEST BLESSINGS OF ALL. In my prayers and in my heart, I am grateful for you and the difference YOU make in my life."

Thanks to all for all the kindness shown during my recent illness and I anticipate returning to Oak Grove as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

John C. Whitlow, Jr.

Feb. 14, 2016



February 24, 2016
Dear Oak Grove Church Members,
I want to thank each of you for the many prayers, calls, cards, and notes since my stay in the hospital, and since I moved to my new home at Regency Retirement Village.
I also want to thank you for the beautiful prayer quilt you sent to me. I am very proud of the quilt, and I can feel the prayers of each one of you.
I am enjoying my new home. I thank you for everything. I miss all of you.
Love in Christ,
Linda G. Brown

Oak Grove UMC
Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 26
(Candy and prize donations are always appreciated)

Lay Servant 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**
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).

UMM Annual Steak Dinner

This years delicious Steak Dinner. Will be on Saturday, March 12th, 2016, from 6:00pm-8:00pm. The price is \$10.00 per plate. Child care is provided.

FESTIVAL OF TABLES

Saturday, April 30th
Al Conklin will be the speaker this year! Table viewing will start at 9:30am and we will eat at 10:00am. Seats are limited, please contact Brenda Henderson for more information! Each year our UMW group hosts a Festival of Tables and raises \$800-\$1000 to support our missions. This event entails decorating a table around a particular theme for their particular table. Each year the fellowship hall is transformed with numerous tables, lots of great food and, best of all, a GREAT time to relax, eat and enjoy fellowship. All proceeds go toward missions.

DISCIPLES PANTRY

In the month of February, we were able to help to feed over 50 families. This month we are especially collecting canned goods of all types. Thank you for helping us stock our pantry!

"A Tribute to Betty G. Phillips"

Sunrise: March 5, 1931

Sunset: February 16, 2016

- B Betty was a member of Oak Grove United Methodist Church for over 50 years. Betty was a beautiful inside and out. She always had a smile. Betty was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Clarence Coleman Phillips, on Dec. 1, 2004. They were the first couple to be married here at Oak Grove UMC on April 14, 1951. They were married for 53 years. Because Christ lives, Betty too shall live.
- E Enjoyed life, she enjoyed people, and she enjoyed helping others. She was always there for all of us when we needed her.
- T The influence of Betty's life upon others is a flame that will burn brightly forever. Like the eternal flame, it will never burn out.
- T The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own. Have love, toil with a will. Place no faith in tomorrow, for the clock may then be still.
- Y Yes, if you could see me now, I'm walking streets of gold. If you could see me now, I'm walking tall and whole. If you could see me now, you'd know I've seen His face, if you could see me now, you'd know the pain has been erased. If you could see me now, you would never want me to ever leave this place.
- G God knew that Betty's body was tired and worn, and a cure was not to be. God put His loving arms around her and whispered "Betty, come with Me."
- P Passed into the presence of our heavenly Father. God was standing at the pearly gates with open arms, ready to welcome Betty home.
- H Heaven is now Betty's home. Her mansion is just over the hilltop.
- I I have now bid this world farewell. I've found peace at the close of the day.
- L Loved God and her church family.
- L Loved her children, grandchildren, sisters, brother, all of her family members, and her fellow man.
- I I don't want you to grieve for me now, for I'm free. I'm following the path God laid, you see. I took His hand when I heard Him call, I turned my back and left it all. Tasks left undone must stay that way.
- P Passed through the valley of the shadow of death, but she feared no evil, for the Lord was with her.
- S Soul shall live forever. Soon, and very soon, we shall meet again on that beautiful shore.

By Linda G. Brown

82 percent of people are likely to attend church if invited by a friend or relative.

Memorials

In Memory of Judy Finney
Harry & Goldie Queen

In Memory of Bobby Becknell
Betty Phillips
JoAnn Walker
Woody & Anne Maxwell
Barton & Judith Sorrells
Lonnie & Joan Carrier
Nancy Hammond

In Memory of Danny Goode
Lonnie & Joan Carrier
Barton & Judith Sorrells
Nancy Hammond

In Memory of Betty Phillips
R.B. & Helen Helms
Harry & Goldie Queen
Kay Brown
Arzelle Dwyer
Woody & Anne Maxwell
Corene Lazenby
Perry & Kathy Phillips
Larry C. Prince
John Whitlow
Mary Ann Scoggins
Barton & Judith Sorrells
JoAnn Walker
Ronnie & Andrea Wilson

*You may designate Memorials and Honoraria for any Oak Grove UMC ministry or fund.

UMW

Thank You!!!!

UMW netted \$330 for the Fundraiser Luncheon on February 21! Thanks to all who stayed for fellowship and good eating! We had a great turn out and the meal was enjoyed by all.

Save the Date

Metro District Mission Study
"Created for Happiness:
Understanding Your Life in God"
March 12, 2016 at 9:15 Matthews UMC

Metro District Prayer Breakfast
April 30, 2016
"Growing Stronger Through Prayer"
Registration 8:45 am Program 9:30 am
Cold Springs UMC Concord