



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

July 2018

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday School's - 9:30AM
Worship - 10:30AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Phone Number - 704-596-4084

Pastor's Cell- 704-712-0866

Web Address - www.oakgroveumc.net

Pastor's email - ijustice@wnccumc.net

Secretary email - oakgrovesecretary@gmail.com



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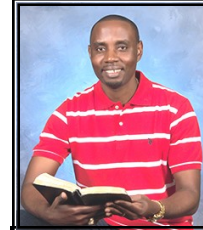
The monthly newsletter of Oak Grove United Methodist Church



The Oak Grove
Breeter



The Oak Grove
Breeter July 2018



Oak Grove UMC Welcomes New Pastor
Rev. Innocent N. Justice



From the Pastor's Pen

Grace and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. It's an honor and privilege for me to be appointed as your Pastor starting July 1st. I am deeply humbled and excited to join your ongoing ministry in this wonderful community of Charlotte.

My family and I are very excited to join Oak Grove in your endeavors as we will join hands to make a positive impact in our community. My hope and dreams will be to strengthen Ministries that are already in place, and join you in exploring and envisioning new ministry opportunities.

I am very appreciative to your Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) for the love and hospitality they have shown to me when I came to meet with them. Furthermore, I will be forever grateful to my brother and colleague Rev. Bob Roten for sharing with me all the tools I needed to make my transition smooth. When Bob drove me around your community, I saw great potentials and opportunity for ministry. New communities are being formed not far from the church, and that is a good thing!

Like many mainstream denominations, our own denomination has been experiencing a decline in member

ship.

My colleague shared with me how for the last three years Oak Grove has lost some faithful members who joined the triumphant church. I also learned that there were faithful members from Cole Memorial UMC who have joined Oak Grove because Cole Memorial has joined Legacy Congregations.

My hope and prayers are that along with the faithful member from Cole Memorial, who are now a part of Oak Grove Church family, existing members and myself as your new Pastor will join hands and take the Gospel to our community rather than waiting for people to come to us. I am truly excited about the opportunity that the Bishop and his cabinet gave me to serve you. I believe that with a shared vision and the mission that leads to reaching that vision, we could achieve anything.

God bless you and yours,
Rev. Innocent N. Justice



Oak Grove United Methodist Church Makes a Difference in Lives

Millennial Idolatry

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me, Exodus 20:2-3 (NRV)

We are United Methodists. We have a polity that includes itinerancy, where appointments are made after consultations with pastors and church committees. Care and prayer are exercised in the process, trusting that the Holy Spirit is “in the mix” as the Bishop and Cabinet deliberate over each church, determined to serve the mission of the church with each appointment that is made.

In consultations with Pastor-Parish Relations Committees, it is not surprising that almost universally, requests are made for a pastor who will help the church reach young adults, the millennial generation— a generation which is largely missing from not only the United Methodist Church, but also other denominations as well. Millennials are among the “none” and “done” population that have largely exited the church, or have never darkened the church's doors.

Most churches are bewildered by the millennial exodus and are looking for answers for how to reach this generation. Many of us, in fact, have the unspoken belief that as some of the churches struggle to survive, if we can just get millennials back in the church it will save us. It is almost as if we have attached messianic expectations on a whole generation.

I recently read an article written by a millennial Christian, an article I have since lost, but whose point was well made. The author was concerned that many churches have made an idol out of millennials— that instead of looking to Jesus as the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, that we have attached too much significance to millennials as the saviors of the church.

When they leave the church, we bemoan their loss as a nail in the coffin of our congregation. When they show up on a Sunday morning we approach them with a kind of adoration, and unload upon them too many expectations—expectations that only a savior, the Savior, can fulfill.

The article awakened in me the realization that salvation can be found in no one else but Christ alone (Acts 4:12). Our attempts to be relevant to millennials are often sacrifices at the altar of idolatry, when what is needed for all of us is Christ-centered worship and mission. When Christ is lifted up, all people will be drawn to him. (John 12:32) As lyricist Stuart Townend has written:

*In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

In this appointment cycle, as pastors transition to new churches, and churches adapt to new pastors, let us all once more lift Jesus up for our worship and praise. May pastors not lay upon their churches the expectation that they will be the Promised Land, but simply a welcoming field of service for the kingdom. And may we not lay upon our pastors the expectation that they will save our churches, but that they will faithfully serve Christ among us. Let us work beside one another, laity and clergy, in service to Christ who is our head, for it is Christ who holds all things together. (Col. 1:17-18)

Gods Peace,
Mark Andrews

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of
Calvin M. & June A. Todd
Teresa Todd

In Honor of
Pat & Karen Reynolds
Teresa Todd

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

July 10th and 24th; August 7th and 21st
6:30—8:00 pm
ALL AGES WELCOME

Check out the Fellowship Hall!!!



Ceramic Items For Sale

Beautifully finished ceramic pieces
created by the Ceramics Class.

Proceeds go to the Oak Grove United
Methodist Church Budget.

In Christ's Love,
Donna Dye
Music Director



For to me to live
is Christ,
and to die
is gain.

Philippians 1:21

If you have two shirts, give one to the
poor. If you have food, share it with
those who are hungry.

-John 3:17

Operation Sandwich
Providing sandwiches for Urban
Ministries every other
Wednesday.
Sandwich builds
this month:
July
13th & 27th



ATTENTION

Anyone who received a
rose, and took the vase
home with you:
Please return the vase to
the church.
We are running out of
vases.

Thank you!
JoAnn Walker

Notable Notes

AAH!!! The beginning of
summer. Time for vacations,
graduations, other various types of
celebrations!

A time of celebration and transition in a
couple of ways for us. We
celebrated with Pastor Bob upon
his retirement, and a new era of
ministry for him.

Pastor Bob has been here when the
church had so many of the saints
transitioning from this earth to their
heavenly home. The way Pastor
Bob ministered to the hurting
family members is and was
greatly valued.

The way he prayed for the sick, and had I hope you have noticed that prior to the

several healing services has been
so inspirational. Pastor Bob— you
will be missed.

We now have the great, joyful
opportunity to welcome our new
minister. Pastor Innocent N. Justice.
Welcome!

You have the complete support of the
Music department, and we look
forward to planning worship
services and events together with
you.

Attention all former members of Cole
Memorial UMC, you are so
welcome here. If you sing in the
choir, or play an instrument, please
call me at 704-449-8443.

worship services, we are playing
music on the CD player to enhance
our services, and to let the
congregation become familiar with
tunes that will be incorporated into
our future services.

The call to Worship by the choir has
included more upbeat music for
the past several services. Do not
be afraid to sing along and/or
clap if you enjoy the music.



The Gospel according to Tennessee

Set in 1926 and based on a true family story, "The Gospel According to Tennessee" is a fast-paced musical dinner show that takes you to East Tennessee, where the fun never ends. Sing along with fabulous old Southern classics and watch the gospel truths unfold through the eyes and imagination of Tennessee.



APRIL 7 - JULY 28
2018

Delicious Down-Home Cookin'!

Southern Fried Chicken
Down-Home Pinto Beans
Hot Cornbread and Butter
Country-Style Chow Chow
Homemade Blackberry Cobbler
Sweet Iced Tea or Water

"Amazing talent, storyline, fun and energy!"
-Marlene L., Minnesota

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