

OAK FOREST NEWS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 57 APRIL 2016

Pastor's Note:

In 8 years of serving Churches I cannot remember a three Sunday stretch as powerful as the last three at Oak Forest. I wish you all had the honor to stand where I stood in the pulpit on Palm Sunday. As the Choir sang to my left, I watched our church process in triumphal entry, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna." It was an overwhelming sight, a foretaste of glory divine!

Easter Sunday brought a packed house. With the gifts of the whole church on full display, we welcomed four new members in our midst and Christ rose us to new heights around the Communion Table. And as if that weren't enough, we tasted salt and stood in the light while Jesus' words echoed in our ears. "You are the salt of the earth, the light of the world."

Last Sunday offered a chance for me to give thanks for all the gifts of Oak Forest. Likewise, the congregation's praises wafted heavenward as a sweet smelling incense to God. Then, we heard it.

"The Feast is set! The Lord invites to His table all who love him and seek to live at peace with their neighbor. Come taste and see that the Lord is good." What an invitation! I felt like wee little Zacchaeus in a sycamore tree hearing Jesus say, "Tonight I dine with you." How could it be that the God of the universe desires communion with us?

Two Sundays in a row we fed large crowds around the Lord's Table and I am reminded that at that precise spot the Kingdom of God is at hand. There the sinner is welcomed and grace is served. There the lonely are brought close and visited by God and God's people. At The Lord's Table the young and the old, the well fed and the underfed, the regular and the stranger are welcomed because around the Lord's Table there is enough room for all and enough food for all—signs that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

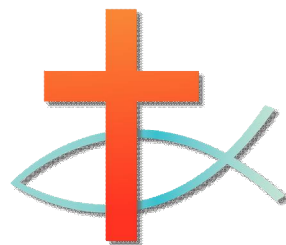
Communion, then, isn't some ritual we do. It's an in-breaking, an intrusion by God into the commonplace of ordinary life to tell us the truth about who we are as God's people. We are the welcomed sinners who welcome sinners and share grace. We "offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, *as holy and living sacrifices in union with Christ's sacrifice for us.*" We do this each time God gathers us around His Table because we know that the poor cannot be fed, the stranger cannot be befriended and the lonely cannot be cared for without sacrifice on our part.

Note here the difference between the Christian gospel and the political/economic systems we know. In this world, the hungry are fed, the abandoned cared for, the oppressed freed, it seems, only if it can be done without anyone feeling the pinch. But in the church—especially when we do the Great Thanksgiving and Receive Holy Communion—we know the signs of the Kingdom of God only come at great sacrifice and personal cost. A Roman Cross comes to mind. And we know that nothing short of our transformation will do. But I've seen the Lord work in mighty ways lately. Without a doubt, God's given us all we need for life and godliness.

The last few weeks reaffirm in my mind that it really is as Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is at hand."

In Christ's love,

Pastor Bryan





You're Invited, Sunday, April 17, 2016
following the church worship service for
Brooke's Wedding Shower & covered dish
luncheon in our fellowship hall. Please
bring your favorite dish to share.



Oak Forest UMC will be showing the movie
"War Room" in two parts.
Tuesday, April 12th at 7:00 p.m. 1 hour part one.
Tuesday, April 19th at 7:00 p.m. 1 hour part two.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

"Give God Thanks for Our Gifts & Talents"

Please Read Matthew 25:14-29

God blessed us last year with financial gifts beyond our immediate monthly needs. When our Finance Committee met to discuss how to invest our additional funds, many a word was said about putting it back for a rainy day, put it in the bank or bury our treasure. We decided to invest, bear fruit for His kingdom, through outreach in our community, second mile giving and making Oak Forest the place to worship, serve and aid our ministries and missions. We all know this is pleasing to God. What a way to give thanks to God, love thy neighbor, spread the word and grow in discipleship so others may have the opportunity to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In Faithful Stewardship,

Your Finance Committee



UMW Visitation Meeting, Wednesday, April 20th
Women will meet at the church at 1:30 p.m. to car pool and visit shut-ins and people recovering from illness or surgery.



COMING SOON... NURSERY WINDOW.



Women's Study Group will start their new book on Sunday, April 18 at 10:15 a.m. The new book is **Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan to Serious, Specific and Strategic Prayer** by Priscilla Shirer. If you loved the movie War Room, you're going to love this new study just be ready for WAR! See Kelly Crawford for more information.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Connor Davis	April 5 th
Anthony Satterfield	April 6 th
Emma Shook	April 14 th
Nash Carter	April 16 th
Irma McClure	April 18 th
Norma Wooden	April 23 rd
Ethan Hunter	April 24 th
Barbara Pachy	April 25 th
Charles Bell	April 27 th
Anita Lance	April 30 th
Susie Brechbill	April 30 th
Barbara Harper	April 30 th

Spring Open House and Handbell Concert
at

HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER

*Join us for a community gathering with an evening
of music by the Valley River Ringers. All are
welcome!!!*

Saturday, April 16th
7:00 p.m.

Moore Great Hall, Hinton Lodge

*Hinton Rural Life Center is located 2.2 miles off of Highway
64 East at the end of Hinton Center Road in Hayesville.*

Call 828-389-8336 for additional information.



To share information in this newsletter please call the church office: 828-389-9077

Or send an email: oakforesthayesville@gmail.com



Administrative Council Meeting May 1, 2016 6:15 p.m.



Attention All Committee Treasurers
Finance Audit in May
Treasurers please turn in
your finance records by May 1st.



Community Prayer Service
Thursday, May 5th
12 noon

on the Square in Hayesville

(In case of inclement weather,
the service will be held at Truett Baptist Church.)

Sponsored by the Clay County Ministerial Association



**WE NEED
YOU**
to make our new
family directory
complete

Save the Date

May 25th & 26th
Will be our picture
days for our New
Church Directory.

Fundraiser- Saturday, April 21st. Drop in between 1:30 and 3pm for a Trades of Hope fund-raiser for Brianna Ross's GS Destinations trip to the UK. Trades of Hope is Helping break the cycle of poverty by selling hand-crafted pieces through Fair Trade practices. To look at the items and find out more information about Trades of Hope please visit

www.mytradesofhope.com/laressiemason

TRADES of HOPE




Oak Forest
United Methodist Church
Endowment Fund
P.O. Box 152
Hayesville, NC 28904

Mother's Day, Father's Day & birthday's are special days to remember or honor our loved ones. If you are not sure what to do or give on these special days, remember our Oak Forest Endowment Fund. The income from this fund is used to maintain our church building, and is always accepting donations. To make a donation to the Oak Forest Endowment Fund you can mail your donation to the address listed above or clearly mark a special offering envelope on Sunday. Make sure you indicate the person you want to honor or remember and who is giving the gift.



Oak Forest's Annual Mother's Day Picnic Celebration Sunday, May 8th
at the pavilion near softball field #6, same place as last year. Time: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Vacation Bible School

Saturday, June 11, 2016 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Kids are crazy for critters with whiskers, tails, feathers, or scales! That's why kids will think this VBS is the cat's meow. During the one day at Pets Unleashed VBS, kids will be introduced to Jesus, God's Son who lovingly cares for all of us.

★ **Key Verse:** "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you." (1 Peter 5:7)

★ Volunteers are needed for all areas of VBS. Kelly and Kristin will be reaching out via email and Facebook to gather volunteers. If you can help please contact Kelly or Kristin.

How well do you know your church? This object in the picture is found somewhere in the church. Can you find it? *The answer is...the letter "o" from the phrase at the altar that says "Do This in Remembrance of Me"* Did you get it right?

