

OAK FOREST NEWS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 55 FEBRUARY 2016

Pastor's Note:

Then he said to them all,

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10th, and runs to Holy Saturday, March 26th. Early on the Church recognized that meeting the Crucified and Resurrected Lord on Easter morning took preparation. Thankfully, God gifted the church with all she needed to ready herself to faithfully come face to face with Christ during the Easter Celebration of Holy Communion. The gifts that God gives include: repentance, fasting and giving.

At first, the church only required new converts to enter this intense period of preparation. They did this because, the Church welcomed Converts into full membership on Easter through Baptism and their first Communion. By the 4th Century, though, the entire church joined in for the Lenten preparation. The logic is simple—self-denial, repentance and giving do not come natural to us. Such tasks require the direction and encouragement of our brothers and sisters in faith.

Because Lenten practices do not come naturally, we must learn to use little when we have much. We must learn to give sacrificially. We must practice repentance when the surrounding cultural becomes comfortable with sin. We must practice self-denial so our lives begin to take the shape of the cross. It's not fun, not flashy and not in vogue. However, in these practices we encounter God's grace. The only thing able to change self-interested people into interesting people!

While fasting we feast on the presence of God. While repenting we experience the joy of forgiveness. While giving we draw closer to Christ, who gives all. This Lent, then, I pray the church will join me in a time of repentance, self-denial and giving. Give up something you'll miss (especially if it's something hindering your walk with God!), pray Psalm 51 daily and give away the money you save from fasting.

May God give us the grace for a holy season of Lent and welcome us to His table in a powerful way on Easter morning. Amen.

Pastor Bryan Wilson



Building a Culture of Generosity in the Church

Please read Acts 4:32-37

God is the most generous and gracious giver and does so because he finds much joy in loving us all. We need to take his lead and build a culture of comprehensive stewardship and not just finances and funding. Just imagine, our church through generosity and giving joyfully, our worries about finances and funding would be a thing of the past. We would be able to lift up our church ministries and missions, working with intentional planning to make disciples of Jesus Christ, instead of spending our precious time fund raising.

Starting today, let us look first at what we want to accomplish to further the goals of the Kingdom and let our generosity abound!

*In faithful stewardship,
Your Finance Committee*

PRAISE BAND PRACTICE

**Sunday, February 7, 2016
2:45 p.m.**



Shrove Tuesday



Pancake Dinner All proceeds will go to children and youth ministries.
Tuesday, February 9, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Place: Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

Menu: All you can eat-pancakes, sausage patties, apple sauce & beverage

Children ages 11 years old and under \$3.00

Adults and children 12 years old or older

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Josh Stafford | Feb. 4 th |
| Jo Sattelmeier | Feb. 6 th |
| Kayla Shaheen | Feb. 7 th |
| Steve Tant | Feb. 8 th |
| Aaron Wimpey | Feb. 9 th |
| Terri Hagar | Feb. 14 th |
| Lou McClure | Feb. 19 th |
| Edna Hermanson | Feb. 24 th |



Ash Wednesday Service
February 10, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Oak Forest UMC Sanctuary



Administrative Council Meeting
Sunday, February 14, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Family Worship Night
February 21, 2016
6:10 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



UMW Planning Meeting Wednesday, February 17th at 12:30 p.m. (Lunch will be provided) meeting will be at Fannie Watson's home-138 McGlamery Farm Rd. For more information call church office 389-9077.

Acts 29 Youth Group will be providing a Valentine's Day Party at UMAR on Sunday, February 14!



Pancake Supper Fundraiser
Saturday, February 27th
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Oak Forest Fellowship Hall

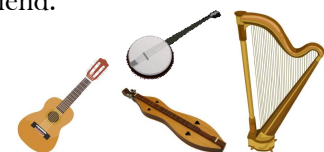
Help Brianna & Cheyenne go with the Girl Scouts to Europe this summer. Look for menu and meal price information in your up coming bulletins.

Special Spud Sunday Meal, March 13th at 5:30pm
Followed by Guest Story Teller and Musician David Russell at 6:30pm

We supply the baked potatoes and toppings, please bring one of the following to share: salad, side dish or dessert.

Mountain music performed with traditional mountain instruments and Celtic music with Celtic harp built by David Russell who will also tell Appalachian Mountain stories.

All Are Welcome! Invite a friend.



Please Note:

The Finance Committee will be establishing a library for financial education such as; budgeting, saving, investing, earning and financial fruitfulness. Anyone who may have books, magazines/ periodicals, educational materials to donate to the library please see Perry Prewett or bring to the church office with a note that they are a donation for the finance library.

To share information in this newsletter please call the church office: 828-389-9077
Or send an email: oakforestumc@dnet.net