

OAK FOREST NEWS

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Pastor's Note:

The journey to fulltime ministry at Oak Forest and Hickory Stand took seven years (much longer, if you count my years in the wilderness). Along the way the Holy Spirit guided me, Jesus called me and the Father graciously and generously provided for me. Along the way I fell in love with learning, with Scripture, with Stephanie Wilson and through prayer, preaching and mission felt my love for God kindled, rekindled and grow. Along the way, God saw fit to give Stephanie and me a son, Patrick Wilson. Perhaps, God thinks we have something worth passing on?

In truth, though, we all of us do have something worth passing on, something worth sharing the grave is empty, death didn't win, might isn't right and the Risen Christ remains on the loose! That we serve a living God, a God on the loose, means we must always seek, we must always follow and we must always listen. Through seeking, following and listening, then, we learn to act both boldly and faithfully.

The greatest desire in my life is to become a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. Since God brought us together, the Lord must think that I cannot become faithful without the churches of Oak Forest and Hickory Stand. I'm excited, then, to arrive in Clay County North Carolina! I can hardly wait to see what God will do with us. If I've learned anything these past few years, it's that God will do much. God will forgive us, but won't stop at forgiveness. Ours is the Great Physician and Deliverer a God who desires both our healing and liberation. God will move heaven and earth so that we might know that ours is the God with us and for us, and for these reasons because of the God who's called us together I move forward in ministry with great expectation and unshakable hope.

Finally, I want to offer thanks for the prayers that brought us safely here, the generous food provided in our new home and the strong backs that unloaded our cattle trailer. Please continue to hold Stephanie, Patrick and myself before the Lord in prayer.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Bryan Wilson



"First Fruits Living"

Read Corinthians 8:9

Many of us begin with optional consumer spending. Then we stretch to pay bills. Finally, we see if there is anything left over for God's mission. In fact, we're usually swimming in debt!

By contrast, "**first fruits living**" is the practice of giving to God the first and the best of what we have, and managing all the rest according to God's generosity. This is a goal for how we're meant to live. It is true not only for money, but also for time and relationships. So, "**first fruits living**" is about earning and saving as well as giving.

"**First fruits living**" prompts us to ask: How little can I live on in order to be extravagantly generous? What might "**first fruits living**" look like in your life? How might it change your priorities?

So "**first fruits living**" is a way to acknowledge this huge gift from God, responding with trust and love!

In Faithful Stewardship, your Finance Committee

Outreach Committee Meeting
Sunday, July 12th following the worship service.

Administrative Council Meeting

Sunday, July 12th at 6:00 p.m.
Members please plan to attend.

Vacation Bible School Meeting: Sunday, July 19th

Immediately following the worship service. Everyone involved in VBS, please plan to attend this important planning meeting.

Please pray for our Youth as they head to Restoration ATL in Atlanta for a summer mission trip July 23-26. They will spend the weekend doing ministry with women and children who are transitioning out of homelessness.



Wednesday, July 15th
Summer Luncheon at 1:00 p.m.
Place: Armadillo Grill in Blairsville.
We will meet at the church at 12:15 p.m. to car pool to the grill.
All are welcome!
For information call 828-389-9700

Happy Birthday

Elena Wimpey	July 8 th
Merritt Penland	July 11 th
Carolyn Vause	July 12 th
Camden Taylor	July 13 th
Stephanie Wilson	July 16 th
Liz Keen	July 20 th
C.J. Truett	July 27 th
Peter Haddad	July 27 th
Jennifer Caiazza	July 30 th
Jennifer McKensie	July 30 th

SEWING BEE

at Oak Forest UMC in the Fellowship Hall
Saturday, July 18th - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
The group will be making "Little Dresses for Africa"
Beginners Welcome!



In just a few weeks on Saturday, August 1st, we will be opening our doors to the children of the community once again for a one day Vacation Bible School. This year's event, Out back Rock, will take the kids to the Outback where they will learn about Joseph, experience rockin' Bible songs, and they will create something special for other children in our community. Help is still needed in multiple ways: Please tell everyone you can about the VBS for kids preschool through 6th grade. The 2 kids from our church who bring the most guests will get special prizes. Registration forms are available in the church office or online on the church web site. We have some material needs we will be posting as well. If you want to help for an hour or all day, please let us know. The last week in July, the church will be a flurry of decorating and we will take all the help we can get. Please call Lorrie Ross at 389-8455 for more information.

Thanks and G'day,

Lorrie



Volunteers Needed at Hinton

July 12-16 and July 19-23
Dishwashers are needed during the weeks listed. Evenings 4-8:30 p.m.
More info on bulletin board or call
Kitty Taylor at 389-2336.



Mission Team Yard Sale

Friday, Sept. 11th & Saturday, Sept. 12th



Please start gathering your unwanted items that are in good condition.

Summer Picnics at McGlamery Farms are Back!

Please join our church family and friends every third Sunday at 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and your favorite picnic side dish to share. For more info or directions please call Fannie at 361-1591.



Moss Memorial Library is collecting family genealogy stories and pictures for volume 2 of the Clay County Heritage Book. It is open to all Clay County residents, so you don't have to be a native to submit your story. Guidelines with sample stories and contact numbers can be picked up in the church foyer or at Moss Memorial Library.

Save the Date!

Saturday, August 29th
for the Spaghetti Dinner & Talent Show!



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

Join us at Oak Forest Church for VBS



When: Saturday, August 1, 2015

Where: Oak Forest United Methodist Church

Time: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm (Lunch will be provided.)

Ages: Pre-K through 6th grades

Registration forms available at oakforestchurch.org or register that day.

Follow us on Facebook and look for the Facebook event.
We'll be posting lots of info there.

990 Oak Forest Road • Hayesville, NC | 828.389.9077 | oakforestchurch.org | oakforestumc@dnnet.net

Oak Forest
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH





Aug. 1st 10 Am - 3:30 pm

Registration Form

(One Per Child)

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home telephone: (_____) _____

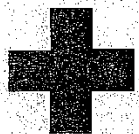
Parent/caregiver's cell phone: (_____) _____

Home email address: _____

Home church: _____

Crew number or name (for church use only): _____

Allergies or other medical conditions: _____



In case of emergency, contact: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____