

OAK FOREST NEWS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 50 AUGUST 2015

Pastor's Note:

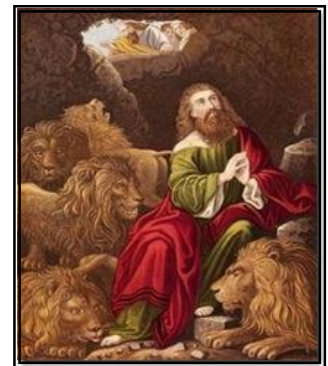
Last year I took a class with a woman who served God all over the globe in the ministry *World Vision*. *World Vision* is an amazing Christian Mission that's grown astronomically in the last 10 years. They rival the Red Cross in bringing aid to desperate people. Finally, I asked her why she no longer worked with World Vision. She replied, "I want to figure out how to be a Christian at home." She went on to say, "In places where Christianity is the minority or gets persecuted, the people I served with were devout. In places where Christianity was the majority, you couldn't tell the difference between a Christian and non-Christian, and there should be a difference."

Her words struck a chord with me and reminded me of my own desire to become a faithful disciple of Jesus. They reminded me of a young man in TN who wanted to receive baptism and nearly didn't because, "my friends have been baptized and they're just like everyone else." I love both of these insights! They recognize that being a Christian is not something we add to all the other allegiances we assert to, but rather being a Christian challenges and interprets all other spheres of influence that desire to shape us. Instead of the world shaping the way we understand our faith, both these believers' recognized that our faith should shape the way we see the world.

Clearly we live in culture where Christianity, at least in profession, remains the majority religion. Too easily and too often it becomes too tempting to become like our surrounding culture rather than follow our Crucified Lord. Our upcoming Sermon Series on the Book of Daniel hopes aid us in faithful living. We're entitling it "Daniel: Living Faithfully When It's Easier Not To." Please be in prayer for Guinnell and I while we pour over the Scriptures. Finally, I challenge us all to read through the Book of Daniel during this Series (Aug. 16-Sept. 13)

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Bryan Wilson



"Be good Stewards over God's House"

In 2011 we refinanced our church through members and friends of Oak Forest. By reducing the interest rate being paid we planned to **save almost \$190,000** over the assigned band loan. The good news is we paid our new investors a much higher rate than their savings were collecting. To date we are still on the target to pay off our building fund 8 years early. However, there has been a drop off of donations to our building fund. We do not want to lose those savings by not meeting our goal. Remember we want to go from mortgage to mission. The early pay off means our offerings go from building facilities to building up God's Kingdom.

Please prayerfully consider re-newing your efforts and offerings to our building fund.

In Faithful Stewardship, your Finance Committee

Finance Committee Meeting
 Sunday, August 9th at 5:00 p.m.

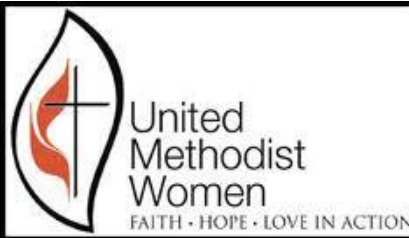
Administrative Council Meeting

Sunday, August 9th at 6:00 p.m.
 Members please plan to attend.

Ice Cream Social & Acts 29 Youth Group Open House
 Sunday, August 16th downstairs in the Youth rooms 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

(Please use ground floor Youth entrance on same side as the cemetery.)

Come check out all the work that is completed in the youth rooms, enjoy homemade ice cream and fellowship!



Wednesday, August 19th at 1:30 p.m.
 The meeting will be held at Fannie Watson's home: 138 McGlamery Farms Road. For more information call 828-389-9700

Happy Birthday

Addison McClure	Aug. 4 th
Lori McClure	Aug. 5 th
Barbara Zeilinger	Aug. 23 rd
Patrick Wilson	Aug. 27 th
Kaitlynn Tant	Aug. 30 th
Sue Prewett	Aug. 31 st

Stuff a Bus School Supply Drive is On!

Our Clay County churches through Communities in Schools provides supplies for needy children in Clay County. Please choose a list from the bus in the foyer and bring those supplies on the list back to the bus on Aug. 16th or 23rd. Two or three people might choose to share a list. Thank you for blessing these children in this way.



Our youth ministry is now Acts 29!
 We are the next chapter.

*Our mission is to
 Reach Up in Faith,
 Reach In for Hope,
 Reach Out with Love;
 Reach All for Christ.*



Youth Week August 13-16. Full schedule and details available at www.oakforestchurch.org/youthweek

Youth Group resumes on Sunday, August 23 from 4-6pm.

Thank you for your prayers for our Mission Trip! 8 of us spent 4 days in Atlanta and had a wonderfully transformative experience!

Oak Forest UMC
Spaghetti Dinner & Talent Show
 Saturday, August 29th at 5:30 p.m.

\$7 per person with a family cap of \$25
 Children 3 & under are free!

Come for a night of food, fun & fellowship!

Don't forget to invite everyone you know.

All proceeds support the Oak Forest Benevolent Fund

Talent show sign up is in the church foyer.

Tickets available at the church office or from Outreach members.



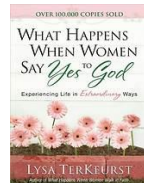
Fun Fact

This month has 5 Fridays, 5 Saturdays, & 5 Sundays. The Chinese call it 'money bags' or 'silver pockets full'.

Volunteers Needed

We still need people to help with the Children's Church Ministry. If you're interested in helping call Pastor Guinnell at 828-361-4645.

Women's Bible Study group led by Kelly Crawford will begin meeting again on Sunday, August 16th at 10:00 a.m. "What Happens When Women Say Yes to God" by Lysa TerKeurst is the book the group will be studying from.



Mission Team Yard Sale
 Friday, Sept. 11th & Saturday, Sept. 12th



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

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