

OAK FOREST NEWS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 53 NOVEMBER 2015

Pastor's Note:

On a particularly hot and boring summer Saturday my twelve-year-old-self made the mistake of telling my dad, "I'm bored." He replied, "Son, if you've got nothing to do, I can find you something." He did, and I no longer complain of boredom.

What's true for twelve-year-old me is true for us today, both as individuals and as a church. If we don't find something to do, someone will find us something to do.

Some Protestant denominations found this out the hard way. In an effort to be strictly biblical, some denominations moved away from the ancient Christian Calendar. Once their calendar's opened up, people filled the dates with other things—things that had little to do with faith.

There's an important lesson here. What we do with our time and the special days we celebrate, go a long way in determining the kind of people we become. By letting people other than the church fill our calendars, we learn what is worth celebrating, what is worth resting for, what is worth spending money on and what is worth remembering.

This month we approach what the church calls Advent. Advent is not Christmas. Advent is a time like Lent. It is a time to prepare us for the revelation of Christ, a time of preparation so that Christ might be born afresh in our hearts this December the 24th during our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Unfortunately many American Churches continue to take their marching orders from consumer driven media culture, rather than long standing Church Tradition. Rather than preparing our lives for fresh and powerful revelation, we prepare ourselves to overreach in spending and overstress our lives by buying (literally buying) into the myth of the "perfect Christmas."

If we don't find something to do, someone will find us something to do. Someone might tell us, "Spend a wad of cash on Black Friday!" or "The kids really do need that." Fortunately for us United Methodist's, the church simply tells us, "sing strange hymns, pray, repent and serve those who have less, and maybe...just maybe The Son of God will reveal himself afresh to you this Advent season." May we all be so blessed this year.

(This Advent we'll be doing "A Different Kind of Christmas" as Church. Bring your friends who are hungry to experience God (and Christmas) in new way.)



Pastor Bryan

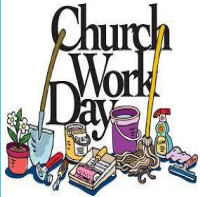
Is Your Financial House in Order?

Please read Luke 6:37-38 & Luke 12:21-34

The Finance Committee met recently to make a church budget for 2016. This is the time of year all of our families review our financial condition: earnings, spending, giving and savings. It's an excellent time to reflect but also plan our future. Make time with God reading and reflecting upon the passages noted above and be guided when considering your 2016 faithful heartfelt giving.

After considering your financial condition and you have had a good year, please consider giving a year end donation to our Building fund or Endowment. Let them be gifts to lift up the glory and joy to God!

In Faithful Stewardship,
Your Finance Committee



Church Work Day

Fall cleaning in the prop room and old office downstairs
Saturday, November 7th, 2-4 p.m.

Administrative Council Meeting
Sunday, November 8th
at 6:15 p.m.

Family Worship Night
Sunday, November 15th at
6:10-7:00 p.m. Bring the family
and help us praise and worship
our Lord with singing.



UMW Meeting
Wednesday,
November 18
at 1:30 p.m.

the meeting will be held at
Virginia Kern's home
1980 Marshall Ridge W.
Young Harris, GA. We
will meet at the church at
1:10 p.m. to car pool to
Virginia.



Oak Forest is again a community drop-off location for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes during National Collection Week, which is November 16-23. Samaritan's Purse collects these shoeboxes filled with toys and other items and distributes them to children around the world. Pick up a box at the church to pack. We are also in need of volunteers to assist with the collection of boxes. Contact Andrew (941-724-1263) for details.

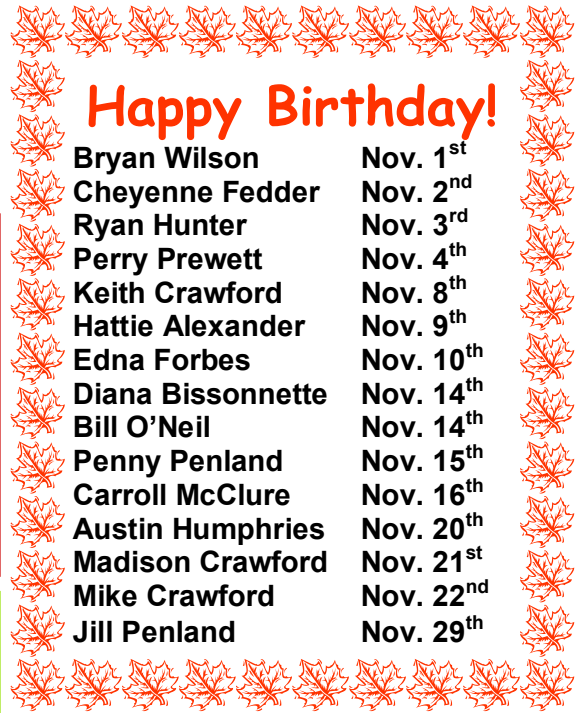


Acts 29 Update: The youth have stayed busy this month helping with a mission team project and doing other activities in the church and community. In our lessons, we've been delving deeper into what it

means to live by our mission statement: Reach Up in Faith, Reach In for Hope, Reach Out with Love, Reach All for Christ.

Oak Forest passed out close to 1,000 pieces of candy during the Trick-or-Treat on the Square event on Halloween. Many families were excited to see us there, and several were interested in more information about our ministries. It was a great opportunity to tell others how much we love the church and make Oak Forest a name that is known to more in the community.

Volunteers are needed to help deliver meals to local shut-ins on Thanksgiving day. If you can help please see Fannie Watson or call her at: 828-361-1591.



Happy Birthday!

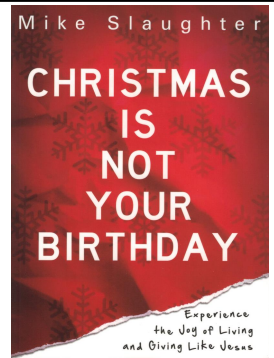
Bryan Wilson	Nov. 1 st
Cheyenne Fedder	Nov. 2 nd
Ryan Hunter	Nov. 3 rd
Perry Prewett	Nov. 4 th
Keith Crawford	Nov. 8 th
Hattie Alexander	Nov. 9 th
Edna Forbes	Nov. 10 th
Diana Bissonnette	Nov. 14 th
Bill O'Neil	Nov. 14 th
Penny Penland	Nov. 15 th
Carroll McClure	Nov. 16 th
Austin Humphries	Nov. 20 th
Madison Crawford	Nov. 21 st
Mike Crawford	Nov. 22 nd
Jill Penland	Nov. 29 th

Don't forget...Oak Forest's 2nd Annual TACKY CHRISTMAS SWEATER 5K Trail Run/Walk Fundraiser Saturday, December 5th! Come early to register on race day. Registration forms available in the church foyer. Remember this 5K Fundraiser is for our Oak Forest Youth Group and Followers of Jesus.

Attention!

We have new church information cards to hand out, located in the foyer. Grab a few and give them to your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Let them know about the upcoming Advent season and invite them to church.

New sermon series for the holidays, you don't want to miss!



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

Oak Forest United Methodist Church's Annual

TRAIL

CHRISTMAS

5K AFTER



Fundraiser for Oak Forest UMC's Youth and Children Programs

Saturday, December 5, 2015

\$25 per runner/walker • Race time 10:00 am

Registrants will receive a t-shirt*, gift bag and lots of goodies.

Download registration form at oakforestchurch.org or register online at active.com.

Course/trail consists of paved roads, gentle grass trail along river and some gravel. Begins and ends at Oak Forest UMC. Mail registration form to Oak Forest UMC | PO Box 152 | Hayesville, NC 28904. For more information contact Kelly Crawford at kellycrawford@gmail.com, 828.371.7199 or call the church office at 828.389.9077. *T-shirts guaranteed to those who pre-register.

Oak Forest United Methodist Church's Annual Tacky Christmas Sweater 5k

Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 10:00 am

Oak Forest United Methodist Church
990 Oak Forest Road
Hayesville, NC 28904

Registration Form

Runner Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Sign me up for future Oak Forest United Methodist Church events

T-shirt size (*pre-registration only*): YL AS AM AL AXL

Age on race day: _____ Activity: Running or Walking (*circle one*)

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Contact Phone Number: _____

If under 18 years of age, please complete the following:

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

EVENT INFORMATION: Oak Forest United Methodist Church is hosting its Annual Tacky Christmas Sweater 5K on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015. Registration opens at 9:15 am. Wear your best **TACKY CHRISTMAS SWEATER!** Proceeds from this fundraising event will go to support the Youth and Children programs at Oak Forest United Methodist Church. The raceway will take you along the beautiful scenery of the Oak Forest Community. Course/trail consists of paved roads, gentle grass trail along river and some gravel with one steep incline. Begins and ends at Oak Forest United Methodist Church. Awards will be given to the top 3 individual winners in each age bracket.

REGISTRATION FEE: Early registration \$25 (\$15 for cross country runners) or day of event \$35 (*t-shirts guaranteed to pre-registrants*) Please indicate payment method Cash, Check Make check out to: Oak Forest UMC and mail check along with registration form to Oak Forest Church | PO Box 152 | Hayesville, NC 28904.

EVENT DISCLAIMER: Please review the following waiver and disclaimer. **By adding your signature, you accept this waiver and disclaimer.** Waiver and Release: By participating in this Event, I do so at my own risk. I assume all risk of injury, illness, damage or loss to me or my property that might result, including without limitation, any loss or theft of personal property. I consent to medical treatment in the event of injury, accident and/or illness during the Event. I agree on behalf of myself (and my personal representatives, heirs, executors, administrators, agents and assigns) to release and discharge the organizers of this event, its principals, its officers & directors, its employees, all sponsors and their representatives and employees from any and all claims or causes of action (known or unknown) arising out of their negligence. I acknowledge that I have carefully read this 'Waiver and Release' and fully understand that it is a release of liability. By my signature below, I am waiving any right that I may have to bring legal action to assert a claim against any and all Event sponsors for their negligence. I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use my name and likeness in any broadcast, telecast, video or print media reporting or advertising of the Event without compensation.

I AGREE Sign here: _____