

Oak Leaves

*Newsletter of Oakton United Methodist Church
"The Friendly Church on the Corner"*

February 2010



2951 Chain Bridge Road Oakton, VA 22124
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WWW.OAKTONUMC.ORG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESKTOP - February 2010

Dear Friends of OUMC,

If you are like me you hear much talk about the economy several times a day. If you are like me also you are concerned about the effect of the economy on you personally. No doubt you have heard talk about church finances when you are around your brothers and sisters in Christ here at OUMC. As I was pondering these matters, I happened upon this prayer in my reading. I want to share it with you.

Dear God, at the beginning of 2010, I ask Your help with my every area of my finances. I ask You to help me with an immediate Divine intervention aiding in the management of my day-to-day finances and paying my obligations. God, I ask that you will give me the God given gift of money management skills. I pray that I will obtain and retain this knowledge from above all the days of my life. Help me to see any small thing that I may have overlooked, help me to see a larger picture than I have been capable of seeing thus far, and give me the vision to see into the future for tomorrow's needs.

My finances are Your finances, dear God, and every activity expresses new life, energy, circulation, and fluency. I bless my money and my money blesses me. Nothing is wasted; everything is stretched and brilliantly, divinely managed. I am the center for its teeming circulation. God does not limit my good, and neither do I. No past experience or belief hinders me.

Generously I receive, generously I share, generously and wise I spend my money for the good of all....My finances are God's blessed finances. My finances make me calmer every day. My finances can never cause me fear, dread, worry, or anxiety. Money can never make me or break me -- for I am spiritually more. God manages my checking account, my savings accounts, my investments and every detail with perfection.

My finances are not based on gambling, speculation, greed, or graft. My finances are not hindered by local confusion, or international controversies. My finances are governed by the clear flowing streams of God in my financial income and outgo. My collateral in God's bank account is always good!

With joy and gratitude I say: God blesses my finances, God blesses my money, and causes it to increase, multiply and expand richly, abundantly and gainfully. God blesses the giver and the receiver and causes their good to be enriched, fruitfully, joyously, and endlessly. Thank You, God, for these useful ideas of my finances. Amen.

I find these words to be comforting in these times when we are bombarded by fearful messages in everyday living. As we prepare to enter the season of Lent later this month, I want to make these words a part of my everyday life. I commend these words to you individually. I commend these words to the congregation as we navigate through the many decisions that we face including financial ones. May we be found as faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to us as we look forward to the days when each one of us will hear these words:

"Well done, my good and faithful servant....Let's celebrate together!" Matthew 25:23 NLT

God be with you in the days ahead,

Pastor Don

When We, Through Faith, Give God Our First and Best, We Know that God is Honored.

Jesus said, "Freely you have received, freely give."
(Matthew 10:8)



Oakton UMC Finance Committee Money Matters
Personal Financial Stewardship

Developing a Budget

A budget is a spending plan. You develop a budget to plan your monthly expenditures. The plan determines in advance how much of your income you are comfortable allocating to each spending area. Your income and spending allocations will be defined by your values and interests.

In developing your budget as a Christian, one of your first tasks will be to examine the priorities that God has directly revealed in his Word.

Basically, there are four general budget categories that are clearly mandated: giving, saving, living expenses, and debt repayment.

Giving is part of the budget: God's Word directs us to give him our first and best. In Proverbs 3:9 we read, "*Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.*" The Apostle Paul wrote, "*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income*" (1 Corinthians 16:2). Giving demonstrates our gratitude for who God is and what he has done for us.

Saving is part of the budget: To prepare for emergencies and to have resources so you can achieve your financial goals, saving is essential. In Proverbs 21:20 God shares his wisdom regarding saving: "*In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.*"

Living expenses are part of the budget: If you have not previously developed a budget, you could be struggling to discover a reasonable allocation for your lifestyle that you can afford. An important first step is to distinguish between what you need versus what you want. Jesus said, "*Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions*" (Luke 12:15). What you allocate for your living expenses should be established with the money that is left after giving and saving.

Debt repayment is part of the budget: In Scripture, God warns you to be cautious about debt. God's Word does not forbid you from borrowing money, but it does discourage it. "*The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender*" (Proverbs 22:7). The Bible is clear as to your responsibility to repay money that you borrow.

In order to avoid dependence on others and to set a good example, you should develop a budget. If you include the four above parts within your budget, you will gain control of your money.

Simple Birthing Kits Save Lives

At midnight in a rural village in Sierra Leone, a woman goes into labor earlier than expected. She cannot make the 11 mile journey to Mercy Hospital (the closest medical facility), but at least the village matron is there to help her. With the help of a disposable delivery kit the two women safely deliver the baby and keep it safe from infection.

Each year, about 57 million women worldwide give birth without the help of a professionally trained health care worker. These births often take place at home, where the risk of infection is high. Some 1,600 women per day die from complications associated with pregnancy or childbirth and approximately 950,000 newborns die per year, all from infection. The clean delivery kits the United Methodist Churches collects each year is a simple approach to help reduce these numbers. It can provide help for women and newborns to avoid such life threatening infections. Mercy Hospital in Sierra Leone, Africa is just one of the hospitals with a goal to supply new clean birthing kits to each of the traditional birth assistants for each child born in each of the villages.

Each Birthing Kit includes: a 1 oz. Travel size bar of Soap (any type), a large trash bag (dark 30 gallon), two 4 inch pieces of kitchen string, and wrapped single razor blade.

LOOKING for a SIMPLE WAY to HELP: Travel size soap can be hard to come by, but if anytime you travel you bring the hotel supplied travel size soap back to church we can put it to a much greater use! Look for the Collection site on the narthex bulletin board.

OUMC 2010 Ministry Leaders

In the January edition of the Oak Leaves, we printed the names of Oakton Church's 2010 Ministry Leaders. We regret the following individuals were either omitted or misidentified on that list.

Dale Hutchinson – Finance Committee	Giles Sinkewiz-Finance Rep to the Trustees
Stan Ellis- Church Council, At-Large	Bruce Long- President, UMM
Lois Hidalgo– OCP Board	Odette Long- Child Protection Coordinator
Carol Mansfield- Worship	Lisa Lanser– President, Young Adults
Barbara and Jim McGilvray- Outreach	Patty Harnisch Skiffington – Outreach
Willi Dalaba- Stephen Ministry	Carol Friesen- Stephen Ministry
	Edith Ashworth- Homebound Communion Coordinator

To view the church structure and a complete list of church leaders, go to the website at:
<http://www.oaktonumc.org/aboutus/churchstructure.html>

Update from Trudy on Her Daughter, Michelle Rupp

Michelle is over her initial attack of Multiple Sclerosis. Her face is no longer paralyzed and her vision has returned to almost normal. She will be starting on medication that will cut down on the incidence of another attack. She is able to drive and is back at work and trying to avoid stress. She is getting plenty of rest. She is very thankful she has so many people praying for her. And, Trudy appreciates all your thoughts and prayers on Michelle's behalf.

Congratulations to the Following Members of this Year's "Life Connections" Confirmation Class

Marisa Beth Butler
Mary-Madeleine Caumeil
Veronique Suzanne Caumeil
Christopher Martin Fertal (Chris)
Mark Andrew Fertal
Teresa Ann Harnisch (Tessa)
Sara Rose Koellisch
Dillon Margolis
Benjamin Robert Pence (Ben)
Ava Katherine Saylor
Kyle David Skiffington
Lauren Mary Turner
Tara Nicole Wilkins

Job Transition Support

New Horizons Job Transitioning Group Weekly Meetings: Want some help preparing your resume, tips on interviewing, hints on finding government jobs? Join us for support, networking and informational topics. New Horizons meets weekly, Mondays at 7pm and Wednesdays at 10am at Floris UMC (13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon, VA 20171). There is no need to RSVP, just show up. If you have questions, please contact Louise Williams at louisebw@cox.net. For more information please visit our website at <http://www.florisumc.org/396855.ihtml>.

Young Adults

Our next Young Adults gathering is February 13th, 6:30pm, at the home of Rex and Maryanne Turner 2844 Hill Road Vienna, VA 22181, around the corner from the church.

Please bring a dish to share and don't forget your loose change for the Pennies for Change jar! Bring your sweetheart or friend or two, everyone's welcome! Childcare will be available on site. Please be kind and RSVP to 703 319-3338 or mturner@verizon.net, including how many children so we can plan childcare accordingly. Hope to see everyone there!

The Oakton United Methodist "Young Adult group" (OUM-YA) welcomes any person attending church services who is in their 20s - 50s, so if you aren't ready to start drawing your fulltime retirement, trust me you fit into OUMC's "Young Adults"!!!

Joining or Hosting is very simple, please contact Lisa Lanser (usually in the red choir robe) or Wayne Malick (usually in balcony running sound or otherwise running around the church) at church or send an email to lisalanser@yahoo.com if you are interested. If you're not sure who either of us are, I think most of the OUMC folks could point us out to you. We'd love to meet you!

We do still need hosts going forward, so please be thinking on if you are able to host - you pick the date that works best for you then just let Lisa Lanser or Wayne Malick know so we can mark the YA calendar! Hosting is as easy as opening the door to us and providing the utensils and soft drinks.

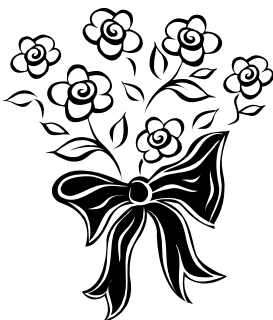
NOTE to All YA Members: you can view the Calendar, Photos or the contact file Anytime by going to the Yahoo groups or thru <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OUMCYoungAdults>
Also if you have photos from a church event you'd like to share, like from the Cantata where all the kids sang with the choir, you're welcome to share them there. Only the Members can access them.

OBITUARY

ALLEN E. "PAPPY" TAYLOR, age 97, one of the pioneers in the American aviation industry, passed away on December 19 at Woodhaven / Williamsburg Landing, in Williamsburg, Virginia. Allen, or Pappy, as his professional colleagues subsequently called him, enjoyed a career in and associated with the airline industry that spanned five decades from the early 1930's into the mid 1970's. He was one of the few remaining original members of American Airlines' Three Diamond Society, then -American Airways' first group of employees. From there, Pappy's aviation career path took him into air traffic control with the Civil Aeronautics Administration, (CAA), which ultimately became today's Federal Aviation Agency (FAA). He served as Center Chief at Chicago's Midway Airport, before being transferred to the Washington DC area in 1957, where his series of duties included being Chief of the Leesburg Center for both Washington National (now Ronald Reagan International) and Dulles International Airports, and later being the FAA's representative at air shows throughout the mid-Atlantic states. Two of the holding points over Lake Michigan for aircraft waiting to land in the Chicago area were, in fact, named "Pappy" and "Taylor" by a former Flight Standards team there.

Mr. Taylor was born in Hazel Dell, Illinois, May 15, 1912. He was a longtime resident of Vienna, Virginia, and was actively involved in his community. He was a member of Oakton United Methodist Church, an administrator and supporter of local youth and high school sports programs, and was a valued member of the Vienna (Host) Lions Club for 41 years.

Mr. Taylor was preceded in death by his loving wife of 57 years, Roberta Caroline Schalk from St. Louis, Missouri, brother Paul, and sister Inez. He is survived by his only son Keith Allen and his wife Carol Brown, of Williamsburg, grandsons Bradley, in Bowling Green, Kentucky, David, in Haymarket, Virginia, and Bryan, in Arlington, Virginia, granddaughters-in-law Jennifer and Allison, great-grandsons Peyton, Braxton, and Parker, and great-granddaughter Grace.



Flower Calendar

The Flower Calendar for 2010 is hanging on the wall of the Narthex [at the "Bob Short door"]. This is a wonderful opportunity to remember a special person, occasion, or event. Floral arrangements provided by the Flower Committee are \$45.00, or you may provide flowers of your own. In any event, it is important to let Barbara Feurtado know what you wish printed in the Sunday Bulletin no later than Wednesday of the week of publication.

Child Rescue Center (CRC) Notes

The 2010 CRC calendar is available for \$10 and is one way we raise funds to support our African orphan children. If you are interested in purchasing one, please see Lisa Lanser or Wayne Malick. If you can't catch us at church you can email Lisa at lisalanser@yahoo.com and we can make some other arrangement to get your calendar to you.

CRC Pen Pal letters are due February 14th to Kim Sheard, OUMC's Pen Pal Coordinator, so they can be delivered by the March Mission team.

"Is God leading you into the mission field this new year? There are still openings on the May 2010 Mission trip to the Child Rescue Centre and Mercy Hospital in Sierra Leone, West Africa! Medical personnel, educators, handymen and women, IT folks, and others are encouraged to apply! If you'd like an application, please email Linda Reinhard at lreinhard@florisumc.org and Cynthia Grant at cgrant@florisumc.org as soon as possible. The deadline for completed applications is February 15, 2010."

Relief to Haiti

There will be a great need for volunteers to help rebuild once the initial crisis has settled. At this time, it is not safe or possible for volunteers to go to Haiti. In order to frame a response that is consistent with the churches' needs, people wishing to volunteer should contact their jurisdictional VIM coordinator to determine when and how to appropriately respond.

Gifts to support UMCOR's Haiti Relief efforts can be made to **Haiti Emergency, UMCOR Advance #418325**. Checks should be made out to **UMCOR**, and please write Advance #418325 Haiti Emergency in the memo line. Checks can be put in the church's offering plate. 100% of gifts made to this advance will go to help the people of Haiti.

Oakton Christian Preschool News

Oakton Christian Preschool spent the Advent Season collecting food, clothing, and donations for our "Adopted Family". Through the generosity of our OCP families, we were able to provide "Our Family" with a wonderful Christmas. The New Year began with very cold temperatures but our classrooms were warm with the smiles of the children. Registration for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year begins February 4th and 5th with our Open House.

Methodist Web Sites

Oakton UMC www.oaktonumc.org

Arlington/Alexandria District www.novaumc.org

Virginia Conference www.vaumc.org

Virginia United Methodist Women www.vaumw.org

United Methodist Committee on Relief new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/

United Methodist Women new.gbgm-umc.org/umw

Volunteers in Mission www.umvim.org

Articles for the Oak Leaves

If you wish to send an article for inclusion in the Oak Leaves, please forward it to oakleaves@oaktonumc.org by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

February Birthdays at OUMC

If we missed your special day, please call the Church Office at 703-938-1234 or email oumc@oaktonumc.org and let us know your special date!

February 2 David Budd
4 Arianna Rice
5 Sandra Uthus
5 Dan Butler
5 Marge Conrad
5 Amy Rice
9 Daniel Estus
10 Jim Prentice
10 Chris Robinson
10 Hannah Sheaffer
11 Geddis Kerr
12 John Edwards
14 Jean Saylor
14 Chase Stoltmann
15 Ian Moore
16 Helen Albanese
15 Natalie Barrientos
19 Ava Saylor
20 Margo Milburn
23 Janet Phillips
26 Cam Perrier
27 Gloria Wilcox



Homebound Communion



On the first Sunday of each month, the OUMC congregation observes the Lord's Supper. If you, a friend, or a family member are homebound and wish to receive communion, please call the church office at 703-938-1234 or send an email to: oumc@oaktonumc.org

OUMC United Methodist Women (UMW)

Arlington District UMW Spiritual Life Retreat in Blackstone, VA will be February 19-21, 2010. The Retreat Leader is Rev. Dr. Teresa Smith. She is a deeply spiritual individual who will share her past, present her peace through Jesus Christ and will inspire hope. We will reflect on our faith journey and the presence of God throughout our life; learn to find hope and experience peace. You can choose to make this either a three day (Fri, Sat & Sun) or a two day (Sat & Sun) event. This Spiritual Retreat is also open to young women ages 12-18 years old, offering an opportunity to reach out to your daughters and grand-daughters. All women are invited (bring a friend); scholarships are available; and carpools can be arranged. The accommodations are comfortable and all meals are provided. Registration forms are available in the Narthex and the Small Social Hall on the bulletin boards. Registration deadline is February 12, 2010. If you have questions, please contact Elsie Benson at 703 378-7642

CANCELLED POSTAGE and CAMPBELL'S UPS CODES: The UMW are collecting cancelled postage stamps and Campbell labels for mission support. Please leave your items in the box and basket in the small room off the sanctuary. Stamps should have a ¼ inch border and only the UPS code is needed for Campbell's label.

FACETS CHILDREN'S VALENTINE PARTY: The UMW Fellowship Circle will be providing a Valentine Party for the children of FACETS on Saturday, February 13, 2010. Help will be needed. If you would like to participate in this fun activity please contact Leslie Margolis, 703 272-3358 or Angie Empfield, 703 471-7679.

OUR DAILY BREAD's EMPTY BOWLS 2010: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax. The Young Women's group will be getting together for fun and fellowship as volunteers at this worthwhile event. If you would like to volunteer with this OUMW's group, please contact Rubina Ellis 703 476-1127.

