

# Oak Leaves

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

**January 2010**



2951 Chain Bridge Road Oakton, VA 22124  
703-938-1234  
[WWW.OAKTONUMC.ORG](http://WWW.OAKTONUMC.ORG)

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESKTOP - January, 2010

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year and I pray that the year 2010 will be one that you can make life work for you and your household—despite any circumstances that you may face this year. This, too, is my prayer for our life together as the congregation of Oakton United Methodist Church.

So how will you make this approach work for you—making life work? The flow that this attitude provides for you is, as I see it, a Jesus approach to living. He was continually letting us know that there is no reason for us to be distracted or deterred by worry or frustration, by our lack of something or limitations. Rather, Jesus made us very much aware that we should experience “life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10) I believe this is what he meant when he said in John 16:33, “In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Jesus also said, in John 14:12, “...the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these...” Jesus knew that you have within you all that you need to live from a place of hope and wisdom and strength – from a place of Divine Power. This year, I see each of you individually and corporately as a church family that we will so fully trust of God that:

ONE, you will show a willingness to focus on how to live from the Divine Spirit within you – and not by allowing an isolated sense of self to control your life.

TWO, you will focus on becoming adept at identifying the thoughts and circumstances that are not working in your life – as well as those that you want to experience.

THREE, you will continually remember to express gratitude to God for the ongoing blessings of life.

I believe if you do this, your life will grow spiritually. I believe if we think in this way as a congregation, our life as the people of God will flourish together. You, too, can overcome your world. As you relate with God through your faith in Jesus in the way described by these simple steps, your life will continue to become brighter, happier, and more fulfilling. And so it will be as we grow together as the OUMC congregation.

So for this New Year I pray that your life will work for you and I wish you enough as outlined in this reading:

"I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.  
I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.  
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.  
I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.  
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.  
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.  
I wish enough 'Hello's' to get you through the final 'Good-bye.'"

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32

Have a blessed year  
Pastor Don

## Devotional Meditation

**Scripture Reading:** *“Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’ ” (Luke 10 37).*

### What Is Mine Is Yours

Scripture is filled with wonderful and moving stories about sharing. Possibly the most quoted story is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. God used a despised Samaritan to encourage us to share our time, talents, and treasures with those in need. The Samaritan showed us what it means to have compassion on someone and to give sacrificially as he tended to the man beaten by the robbers. Not only did the Samaritan provide immediate aid, he brought the injured person to an inn where he could be cared for further. The Samaritan used his own funds for the man’s care. The Samaritan demonstrated the attitude, “What is mine is yours.” Our challenge as Christians is to show our compassion as willingly and generously as the Good Samaritan. God wants us to be his channels of his love and care to those in need.

In contrast to the Samaritan, the priest and Levite, who passed by the victim before the Samaritan came along, showed no compassion for the beaten person. They had the attitude, “What is mine is mine.” They didn’t want to give any time, care, or comfort to the victim.

God has blessed us with many talents, gifts, and resources. Because God has blessed us, he will give us opportunities to use what he has given us for his purposes. Through faith, we receive God’s wisdom to acknowledge that he is the provider of all things so we become more willing to share our blessings with others. When God shows you a need, are you ready to respond?

### Thoughts:

1. Why was it so significant that the person sharing his gifts was a Samaritan?
2. In what ways have you demonstrated the attitude “What is mine is yours” at home, at work, and at church?
3. What are some other examples in Scripture where people have shared so freely?

### Prayer:

Dear good and gracious heavenly Father, you show your love for us in so many different ways. Forgive us when we fail to thank you for all that you do for us. We thank you for your constant presence in our lives. We pray that you will grant us loving hearts that will be willing to respond to those in need. Help us to love our neighbors. In your precious name we pray.

**Amen.**

## **Sunday School Classes for the New Year**

### **Children's Sunday School**

It's a new year already? Our children's teachers have done a great job of getting our Sunday School going this fall. Our thanks go to Katherine Archer, Cheng Tang, Holly Kitchen, Al Kitchen, Sherri Wilkins, Lori Caumeil, Dale Walton, Jim Walton, Rubina Ellis, Vilma Hanes, Lisa Waldbaum, and Lois Hidalgo. And thanks to all of the faithful parents who bring the students every week. Children's Sunday School will continue in the current structure of separate classes for Preschool, Grades K-1, Grades 2-3, and Grades 4-5.

### **Youth Sunday School**

Now that Pastor Don's confirmation class has graduated, the youth will have two different Sunday School classes. Thanks to Pastor Don, Kirk Smith and Carol Friesen for teaching this important series.

- The Middle School Class (Grades 6, 7, and 8) will meet with Kirk Smith in Room 2.
- The High School Class (Grades 9-12) will meet with Sammye Justice in Room 3, the Youth Room.

### **The Sunday School Nursery Team**

Many thanks to Sonya Saylor who coordinates our Sunday School volunteers. And many thanks, also, to Olesya Ellis, Dawna and Emir Mussad, and many others who help support the nursery so parents can participate in Sunday School.

### **Adult Sunday School**

First, thanks to all of our adult teachers who have helped give us some variations in our adult offerings this fall. Allen Barnes, Bill Korn, Geddis Kerr, and Karen Budd - thank you for your time, sharing your knowledge, your preparation, and your good cheer. What is next for January and February? We are trying different classes out for eight weeks at a time, and we are already adding some flexibility to the formula.

- Thelma Byram steps in on January 3 to start an eight week study of "Parables" for the Adult Two class. Thelma has taught Bible for years, and has presented the long-term Disciple Bible series at Oakton. She promises to bring her sense of humor as well as her Bible knowledge to this class.
- Allen Barnes will continue his study of Psalms with the Adult One class. If you want to learn new Biblical historical facts each week, this is the class for you. Allen weaves together these historical facts to help us understand the source and meaning of scripture, while also giving us an understanding of both the realities of life in Biblical times, as well as insights into the many intrigues sometimes subtly documented in scripture.
- At press time, Karen Budd's Adult Three class (Genesis is Right") was extending their lease on a Sunday School room "until they have covered all of the material." Karen's class has invoked the "Snow Day Rule" and does not want to cut their class short. So this (previously) eight week class has become open-ended. Discussion in this group has been animated, and fellowship is guaranteed. If you want a look at some different topics, join Karen and her class on Sunday mornings.

## **2010 Church Photo Directory Coming Soon**

Plans are underway to distribute copies of the 2010 Oakton Church Photo Directory before the end of January. The exact date will be announced in the church bulletin. For those who are able, you may pick up your copy in the chapel or sanctuary after Sunday services. Out of town members and those not able to attend church will receive their copy in the mail. More than 115 families, or about 50% of the church's roster, participated in having their pictures taken. Sponsorships to help offset printing costs were made by 16 organizations—both inside and outside the church. Please be sure to see their ads at the back of the directory. Special thanks go to Penny Bladich, Dave Estus and Sarah Honda for their help in soliciting sponsorships and taking photographs.

## **OUMC 2009 Confirmation Class Recognized During 10.55 am Worship on December 20<sup>th</sup>— 13 Students Confirm Their Faith**

Pastor Don Hawks confirmed 13 Confirmands who made their public profession of faith and became professing church members during the December 20<sup>th</sup> 10.55 am worship service. Some of the students had been confirmed before but attended this class as a “refresher” course. All 19 persons who attended the 2009 class were recognized and a reception for the class members followed the service in the Large Hall.

The “Life Connections” Confirmation Group met on Sundays from September 20<sup>th</sup> through December 20<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the group attended three field experiences outside of the Sunday classes. Pastor Don, Carol Friesen and Kirk Smith facilitated this year's Confirmation experience. Attendance and participation was at a high level.

Confirmands shared this feedback about this year's confirmation experience:

- “It was interesting to hear about Methodists' history and loved the PowerPoint.”
- “I liked learning about the different religions.”
- “One thing I learned is the correct order of the books in the Bible...Learning the books by song.”
- “I learned that the church split over some seemingly insignificant things.”
- “I enjoyed the field trips to other places of worship.”
- “I learned for the first time that Jesus was Jewish.”...”I learned that Christianity evolved from Judaism.”
- “I enjoyed being with my friends...enjoyed learning...the open discussion.... the competitive games”
- “I learned a lot about the church!”

To learn more about the Confirmation activities and about those who were confirmed, visit the Confirmation page on the church web site @ <http://oaktonumc.org/confirmation.html>

## Outreach Committee Activities

### The Lamb Center -

The committee continues to prepare and deliver lunch once a month to the homeless and the working poor at The Lamb Center in Fairfax. We currently have enough volunteers.

### Martha's Table -

Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 23, 2010, when committee members will lead another group of volunteers to Martha's Table.

For more information about any the above, please call Barbara McGilvray at 703-264-0383 or email her at [mcgilvrayj@aol.com](mailto:mcgilvrayj@aol.com).

## Young Adults

We are taking a much needed rest in the month of January and will hold our next Young Adult Potluck the 2nd Sat. in February at the home of Rex and Maryanne Turner. The Fellows are targeting a March date, so please mark your calendars and keep watch on next month's Oak Leaves and Sunday Bulletins for more information.

We do, however, still need hosts for the rest of the year. Pick a date that works best for you, and let Lisa Lanser or Wayne Malick know what that is so we can mark the YA calendar! Hosting is as easy as opening the door to us and providing the utensils and soft drinks.

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"!!! Childcare is usually available on site at the Potluck dinners.

Joining us 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) either at church or [lisalanser@yahoo.com](mailto: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!

NOTE to All YA Members: You can view the Calender, Photos or the Contact file anytime by going to Yahoo Groups or <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 on this site. Only Members can access them.

## Sunday Morning Café

Well, we tried out the “Sunday School Café” from September through December to see if we wanted to continue offering coffee, juice, and snacks. The café runs from 8:30 until 10:30 on Sunday mornings in the breezeway. The target audience was members of the 8:30 service, all Sunday School attendees, parents of children attending the 9:00 children’s choir rehearsals, and anyone who just wanted to socialize. Here is what has happened:

- Frances and Sarah Honda have stepped up to set up the buffet tables before the early service, and Lois Hidalgo helps shut it down at 10:30. Phil and Kimiko Hannum always show up early for the 8:30 service and also help set up. Sarah and Frances, Janet Phillips and Sharon Leonard have been donating fruit and baked goods, and others have joined in too.
- The monetary contributions are starting to help defray the expenses.
- The members of the 8:30 service have adopted this fellowship opportunity. They have been helping set it up, and have been covering the snack table with homemade baked goods.
- As a result of homemade baked contributions, we no longer have any leftover food. Go figure.
- We have changed the name from “Sunday School Café”, because it’s not just for Sunday School anymore.
- We have decided to extend the life of this offering for another quarter.
- If you would like to help with this opportunity in any way – setup, food donations, cleanup, please call Bruce Long (703-988-0593). He will generously award you a spot on the schedule, as often as you would like it.

## Flower Calendar



The Flower Calendar for 2010 is now 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 coordinated by the Flower Committee for you are \$45.00, or you may provide flowers of your own. In any event, it is important that you let Barbara Feurtado know what you wish printed in the Sunday Bulletin no later than Wednesday of the week of publication.

## Oakton United Methodist Church 2010 Ministry Leaders

<b>Church Council</b>
<b>Karen Budd</b> , Chair
Bruce Long, Vice Chair
Joann Edwards, At Large
Phil Hannum, At Large
Stan Ellis, At Large
Linda Sveinsson, At Large
Vacant, At Large
Betty Harwick, Secretary
Sammye Justice, Lay Leader
Alex Watson, Lay Leader
Jim Walton, AC Lay Member
Vacant, Reserve to AC
Bill Doughten, Treasurer
Odette Long, SPRC
Giles Sinkewiz, Finance
Dick Javins, Trustees
Carol Friesen, Stephen Ministry
Jill Ririe, Communications
Larry Ekberg, OCP Board
Elsie Benson, UMW
Vacant, UMYF
Vacant, UMM
Stan/Frances Ellis, Witness
Marge Javins, Worship
Barbara McGilvray, Outreach
Lois Hidalgo, Nurture

<b>Trustees</b>
<b>Dick Javins</b> , Chair
Wayne Malick, Vice Chair
Joan Korn
Jim Ivey
Alvin Kitchen
Elsie Benson, Secretary
Sterling Wilcox, B&G
Daryl Hutchinson, Parsonage Rep.
<b>Endowment Committee</b>
Bill VanStavoren
Dick Javins
Alvin Kitchen
Giles Sinkewiz
Pastor Don
<b>UMC Organizations</b>
UMM Pres., Vacant
UMW Pres., <b>Elsie Benson</b>
UMYF Pres., Vacant

<b>Events Mgt. Team</b>
Bruce Long, CC VC
Sammye Justice, Lay Leader
Alex Watson, Lay Leader
Lois Hidalgo, Nurture
Barbara McGilvray, Outreach
Marge Javins, Worship
Stan/Frances Ellis, Witness
Pastor Don, Ex-officio
Communications, Ex-officio
<b>Communications</b>
<b>Jill Ririe</b> , Chair/Webmaster
Frances Ellis, Oak Leaves Ed
Geddis Kerr, Sign Steward
Steve Honda, Public Affairs
Tori Terril/Vacant, Bulletin Board Coordinators
Dave Estus/Sarah Honda, Photographers
Jim Mc Gilvary, Email Coord.
Shirley Young/Vacant, Historians
<b>Witness</b>
<b>Frances/Stan Ellis</b> , Chairs
Pastor Don, All Things New

**2010 Ministry Leaders.  
(cont.)**

<b>Outreach</b>
<b>Barbara McGilvary</b> , Chair
Elsie Benson
Jim McGilvary
Sandy Butler
Patty Harnish
Frances Honda
Dawna Mussad
Nancy Saylor
Stephanie Swain
<b>Stephen Ministry</b>
<b>Carole Friesen</b> , Leader
Patty Harnish
Jessica Brenchick
Bill Korn
Ted Lyons
Willi DaLabda
Jan Smith
Pastor Don

<b>OCP Board</b>
<b>Larry Ekberg</b> , Chair
Glo Hadermann, Director
Karen Deege, At Large
Greg Perrier, At Large
Pastor Don
Barbara Feurtado, Secretary
Reps from Finance, SPRC, Trustees, Family Ministries

<b>Finance</b>
<b>Giles Sinkewiz</b> , Chair
Bill Doughten, Treasurer
Stan Ellis, Assist. Treasurer
Geddis Kerr, Teller Coordinator
Dick Javins, Memorial Gifts
Barbara Feurtado, Secretary
Janet Colvin, At Large
Carol Friesen, At Large
Hank Walton, At Large
Georgianne Kennedy, At Large
Vacant, At Large
Karen Budd, CC Chair
Pastor Don
Jim Walton, AC Lay Member
Sammye Justice, Lay Leader
Alex Watson, Lay Leader
Odette Long, SPRC
Dick Javins, Trustees Rep

<b>Worship</b>
<b>Marge Javins</b> , Chair
Daryl Hutchinson, Communion Coordinator
Dannye Ivey, Usher/Acolyte Coordinator
Betty Harwick, Flower Coordinator
Kay Blocher, Prayer Team Coordinator
Cheng Tang/Bill Korn, Liturgist Coordinators
Carol Mansfield, Altar Guild Coordinator
Sammye Justice, Child Time Coordinator
Pastor, Organist, Music Director

<b>Staff Parish Relations</b>
<b>Odette Long</b> , Chair
Leslie Margolis
Sonya Saylor
Jennifer Fisher
Jillie Terrill
Bryan Deege
Pastor Don
Sammye Justice, Lay Leader
Alex Watson, Lay Leader
Jim Walton, Lay Member to AC
<b>Committee on Lay Leadership</b>
<b>Pastor Don</b> , Chair
Lois Hidalgo
Wayne Malick
Barbara Fisher
Aleta Rauch
Bruce Long, Church Council VC
Sammye Justice, Lay Leader
Alex Watson, Lay Leader
Betty Harwick, Church Council Secty.

**2010 Ministry Leaders.  
(cont.)**

<b>Nurture</b>
Lois Hidalgo, Chair
Bruce Long, Sunday School Coordinator (interim)
Sonya Saylor, Nursery Coordinator
Mindy Fellows, Gateway Coordinator
Barbara Feurtado, Membership Secretary
Vacant, Stewardship Coordinator
Virginia Mylks/Daryl Hutchinson, Shepherds Coordinators
Edith Ashburn, Homebound Communion Coordinator
Edith Ashworth/Frances Ellis, Library Coordinators
Helen Albanese, Prayer Vigil Coordinator
Helen Albanese, Child Protection Coordinator
Wanda Kirkpatrick, Family Ministries

<b>Staff</b>
Pastor, Don Hawks
Organist, Jan Murley
Office Admin., Barbara Feurtado
Director of Music, Shannon Wise
Custodian, Rick Fraser
Chapel Choir Director, Jan Smith
Nursery Director, Olesya Ellis
Youth Leaders, Deb and Cecil Porter
OCP Director, Glo Hadermann

## OUMC United Methodist Women (UMW)

OUMC United Methodist Women (UMW) invite women of the church and community to meet with us:

- **Fellowship** meets the second Saturday of each month (next meeting is Jan 9, 2010) in the small social hall at 8:30 am. Bring your own breakfast.
- **Susanna Circle** meets the Second Tuesday of each month (next meeting is Jan 12, 2010) in the small social hall at 12:00 noon for pot luck lunch.

Each meeting has a combination of social, nurturing, and spiritual activity. We welcome and encourage all women to join us. You need not be a member of OUMC.

**OUMW Young Women's Group:** In February 2010, Our Daily Bread will be having their Empty Bowls Event. Potters provide hand-made bowls to be sold for fund raising and a simple meal of soup and bread is provided. Our young women will be volunteering in the selling of bowls, serving of the meal, and assisting in the silent auction. Rubina Ellis (703 476-1127) will be contacting OUMC young women with the date and a request to volunteer. Or you may contact her.

**Arlington District United Methodist Women, Spiritual Life Retreat:** This year's Spiritual Life Retreat will be held at the VA UM Assembly Center (VUMAC), Blackstone, VA February 19-21, 2010. Our Retreat Leader, Dr. Teresa Smith is the director of new Pathways, a ministry to spiritually guide you to hope and healing. During the retreat we will reflect on our faith journey and the presence of God throughout our life: learn to find hope and experience peace.

VUMAC has comfortable rooms with convenient elevators to conference rooms. So the weather will have no impact on your stay. Carpools will leave OUMC at 6:15 am on Saturday, Feb 20, 2010 to arrive at Blackstone, VA before the first session with Teresa. Carpool arrangement can also be made for a Friday check-in with Friday night dinner and an evening program.

This is an extremely rewarding experience that will leave you refreshed and renewed. Please consider making time for this event. UMW has scholarships available. Please contact Elsie Benson, 703 378-7642 for more information.

## January Birthdays at OUMC

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

January 3	Mike Wise
3	Ted Lyons
5	Linda Fahner
6	Marisa Butler
7	Bill Kays
8	Brooke Dearing
8	Don Fisher
9	Hazel Lent
11	Christopher Fertal
11	Jean Mitchell
11	Trudy Rupp
12	Alex Watson
12	Kimiko Hannum
14	Maryanne Turner
15	Larry Ekberg
15	San Horton
15	Benny Leonard
15	Elizabeth Kerr
15	Rubina Ellis
19	Sharon Leonard
20	Claire Parsons
21	Erica Cordes
23	Raquel Barrientos
26	Dick Javins
31	Nicole Fellows
31	Scott Saylor



## 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](mailto:oumc@oaktonumc.org).

♪♪ Grace Notes January 2010 ♪♪

Happy New Year, Everyone!



For me, the New Year always begins with thanking everyone who helped make our Christmas music so wonderful back in December. I am grateful first and foremost to Jan Murley for accompanying all our groups, and also to Jan Smith for her direction of the Chapel Choir and help putting the Christmas Cantata together. And what a Cantata it was! Thanks go out to all choir members, from Chapel Choir to Glory Sound to the Sanctuary Choir, for all their hard work and energy that helped make the Cantata a joyful experience for everyone. Special thanks also go to Jane Miller for playing her harp for both services on December 13. What a beautiful way to hear our favorite Christmas carols! The handbell ringers and Cherub singers kept the Christmas joy going the next week as they provided special music for the 10:55 a.m. service on December 20. Later that day, the CRC benefit concert provided a variety of Christmas music- and I thank all who participated and enabled us to raise funds for the CRC for a second year in a row. Finally, I need to thank the musicians who added to our Christmas Eve special music: Jan Smith, Kim Sheard, Frances Ellis, Mike Wise, Norm Dietz, Stan Ellis, Katie Hidalgo, and Warren Underwood .

Some unsung musical heroes need to be mentioned as well. First Trudy Rupp, for her piano/organ duets with Jan Murley throughout the month of December. Trudy, you are a blessing- thank you for your willingness to share your music with us! Also, Wayne Malick and Chip Empfield are behind the scenes up in the balcony, but without them, no one would hear our music! Thanks, guys, for always being there and supporting the OUMC music program so wholeheartedly.

As we move forward into 2010, I wish you all many blessings in the New Year. May music fill your souls, and may there be a song in your heart throughout the year to come!

In Christ,  
Shannon



## Inclement Weather Policy



In case of snow or other potentially hazardous weather or emergency situations on Saturdays and Sundays, a decision may be made to cancel or delay regularly scheduled events. As soon as a decision is made, a notice is posted on the church's home web page and to the church email list. Also a message will be left on the church telephone system. For weekday events, a notice will be posted in the same way but typically we follow the Fairfax County School system as a model for canceling or postponing weekday activities. If you are not on the church email list and want to be notified in that manner, please contact Jim McGilvray by email [mcgilvrayj@aol.com](mailto:mcgilvrayj@aol.com)

## The Hermitage

Owned and operated by [Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc.](#), The Hermitage sits on 7 beautiful acres. Located in a neighborhood setting, just minutes away from the finest shopping, restaurants, arts, culture and entertainment, there is always something new and exciting to do!

The Hermitage in Northern Virginia is a retirement community (age 62 and up) that allows residents the freedom to continue their own traditions and lifestyle while enjoying the peace of mind that continuation of care will be provided if needed. For more information, please go to [The Hermitage's website](#) located at <http://www.hermitage-nova.com/>

## UMCOR Gift Catalog Now Available

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) publishes a Gift Catalog that provides ideas for gift giving year round. Each item is an example of what a gift can accomplish and 100% of all gifts will go to the listed Advance project. For example, you can purchase a beekeeping kit for farmer completing UMCOR training, provide anti-malaria medication for 25 pregnant women with malaria, or provide clean water for 300 people in Sudan. To learn more, visit <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/gift/gift-catalog>

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is a not-for-profit global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR is working in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. Our mission, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, is to alleviate human suffering—whether caused by war, conflict or natural disaster, with open hearts and minds to all people. UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own.

## Changes Coming to the Oak Leaves Distribution



In an effort to save time and money, the church will be discontinuing delivery of the Oak Leaves newsletter by U.S. mail to those recipients for whom we have an email address. If we have your email address, you will ONLY receive your copy of the Oak Leaves in this manner. If you do not have an email address on file, you will continue to receive your copy of the Oak Leaves in the U.S. mail. If you've not yet shared your email address with the church office, please consider doing so. The church does not use any personal information beyond its stated purpose, nor does it sell or share personal information with other organizations outside of the church. We estimate we spend more than \$2,000 a year in copying and postage costs, not to mention the time our volunteers spend folding, labeling and sorting the newsletters by zip code before they can be mailed. By eliminating paper copies, our resources can be redirected to other activities. We began experimenting with electronic delivery of the newsletter several months ago and have had a positive response. This change will go into effect with the March 2010 edition of the newsletter. Please also be aware you can always find the last four editions of the Oak Leaves on our website at:

<http://www.oaktonumc.org/pastandpresent/recentnewsletters.html>

## Local Church Events –Arlington District UMC

**Mondays (7 PM) and Wednesdays (10 AM)** of each week - Job Transitioning Group @ [Floris UMC](#), Herndon

**Mondays and Thursdays (7 PM)** - Mind and Body Class @ [Chesterbrook UMC](#), McLean.

**Wednesdays (6 PM)** - Centering Prayer @ [Trinity UMC](#), Alexandria

**Saturdays - the 2nd Saturday of each month, 8:30 AM** - Hiking Group meets at [Friendship UMC](#), Falls Church

## 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](mailto:oakleaves@oaktonumc.org) by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

