

Oak Leaves

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

January 2012



2951 Chain Bridge Road Oakton, VA 22124
703-938-1234
WWW.OAKTONUMC.ORG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK – January 2012

Dear Friends,

After much prayer and discernment, I have indicated to Dr. Young Jin Cho, Arlington District Superintendent, that I wish to end my appointment as Pastor of Oakton United Methodist Church after the Virginia Annual Conference meeting in June. My request has been shared both with the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the Church Council. It is with the District Superintendent's agreement that I share this news with you at this time.

I am extremely grateful for the 4 years that I will have had as your Pastor. My time with you has provided me with many opportunities for joy as well as growth, both personally and professionally. I will carry with me the stories of our lives together. I will ask church leaders to help prepare a Service of Farewell for one Sunday in June. More information about plans for my farewell will be included in an upcoming issue of the *Oak Leaves* and on the church web site.

Please know that I love each one of you. I wish you the best and trust that you will continue to seek where God may be calling you as you continue your spiritual journey. This faith community will always continue in my prayers, and I trust your prayers will follow me.

The District Superintendent is working already with the SPRC to assess options for the appointment of the next pastor after Annual Conference.

Sincerely,
Pastor Don Hawks

To the OUMC Congregation:

Your church family desperately needs your help!! Children's Church needs more volunteers in order to continue. We need a leader and assistant for the two age groups each Sunday. Since we have so few volunteers, parents and members who are volunteering are having to help with both the Nursery AND Children's Church and in some cases are not even able to attend a church service at all---EVER!! This is not how it should be. We need your help in order to keep our families here at OUMC. Please consider volunteering to help with the Children's Church program. The more that volunteer, the less often each person will be needed on the schedule. New instruction materials are being ordered and will be provided for anyone who volunteers. Teens are needed as assistants. Please contact me if you can help, and I will be happy to explain how our program of Christian Education for children is carried out. I thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of OUMC's Christian Education program.

Lois Hidalgo, 703-648-9135, LDHida@verizon.net

Circumstances Beyond Our Control

This is a story told by Sarah (not her real name). It's her story and I could only listen. Sarah's a grandmother with four grandchildren ages 10, 7, 6, and 4. They live with her in a motel room for which she pays \$300 a week in rent. The kids are with her because their Dad is serving a 20 year prison sentence, and their mom's hospitalized in Pennsylvania.

Sarah works three jobs -- supporting herself and those four grandbabies. She's a beautiful Christian lady. Neither she nor the children have health insurance. Sarah herself has problems with her ankles and cartilage and really should not be working at a job that has her standing which is what she does right now.

She's tried to get help, but finds it difficult. Many doors are closed to her because she does not have custody of the children. She cannot qualify for help from a homeless shelter; she can't get health benefits for the children for the same reason. She can herself qualify for general assistance, but that doesn't begin to address the financial needs of a five-person family. So, her dream and goal right now is to save enough money to get a place for her and the kids. It's a long and hard goal.

Why am I telling you about Sarah? Because, listening to Sarah, I could only think, Sarah needs a miracle. There are so many needs, I'm not sure exactly what the miracle would look like. And Sarah's story is the kind of story that so many homeless people might share.

There's a common misperception that homeless people are in their homeless situation because they don't work hard enough can't get along with people ... are dumb .. or mentally ill ... etc. The truth is that, like Sarah, many homeless people are in circumstances beyond their control.

Right now, I'm asking you as a believer in the miracle working powers of Jesus and the Lord God we serve, to pray for Sarah and for her miracle. Don't worry about how the miracle will come; that's up to God. Just be one more person who loves Sarah and prays for her miracle. It's a miracle that will touch a whole family and will witness to God's glory. Stay posted! This is 2012, a year of fresh beginnings, and of a God who is faithful. I feel sure that Sarah's miracle is on its way, and I'm sure that your prayers will help.

Note: Who says God isn't still in the miracle working business? Since the above was written -- in December -- God has been working out Sarah's "miracle". By the time you read this, the children will have gone to Pennsylvania to live with their mother, and Sarah has the prospect of a one BR apartment suitable for herself at a rent she'll be able to afford. Recognizing the healing place of family bonds, suitable housing with oversight, has been found for the family. Sarah still needs a security deposit and credit checks to be completed. Rather than a petition, this message becomes more one of praise.

Written by Willi Dalaba. Since the OUMC Faith in Action Sunday, Willi and her family as well as others from OUMC have been working with Truro Church in their effort to help the homeless.

2012 Church Leadership

Church Council

Chair – Jack Dalaba

Vice Chair – David Chan

Pastor – Don Hawks

Lay Leaders – Geddis Kerr and Alex Watson

Annual Conference Lay Member – Geddis Kerr

Treasurers – Pat Fahner and Stan Ellis

At Large Members – Joann Edwards, Jim Nagle, Linda Sveinsson

Secretary – Church Office Administrator

Ministry and Committee Chairpersons

Finance – Stan Ellis

Trustees – Dick Javins

Staff-Parish Relations – Leslie Margolis

Nurture – Lois Hidalgo

Outreach – open

Witness – Sammye Justice

Worship – Marge Javins

Oakton Christian Preschool Board – Stan Ellis

Stephen Ministry – Carol Friesen

Trustees

Chair – Dick Javins

Class of 2012 – Jim Ivey, Dick Javins, Joan Korn

Class of 2013 – Elsie Benson, Bryan Deege, Bill Kays

Class of 2014 – Helen Albanese, Mark Fahner, John Patterson

Finance

Chair – Stan Ellis

Teller Coordinator – Hank Walton

Finance Secretary – Dick Javins

At Large – Carol Friesen, Georgianne Kennedy

By Position

Treasurers – Pat Fahner and Stan Ellis

Pastor – Don Hawks

Council Chair – Jack Dalaba

Annual Conference Lay Member – Geddis Kerr

Lay Leaders – Geddis Kerr and Alex Watson

Staff Parish Relations Chair – Leslie Margolis

Trustees Chair – Dick Javins

2012 Church Leadership

(continued)

Endowment

Chair – Stan Ellis

At Large – Helen Albanese and Bill VanStavoren

By Position

Finance Representative

Staff Parish Relations Representative

Trustees Representative

Council Chair – Jack Dalaba

Pastor – Don Hawks

Staff-Parish Relations

Chair – Leslie Margolis

Class of 2012 – Robert Butterworth, Leslie Margolis, Sonya Saylor

Class of 2013 – Helen Albanese, Willi Dalaba, Olivia Rauch

Class of 2014 – Cecil Porter, Bill VanStavoren

By Position

Lay Leaders – Geddis Kerr and Alex Watson

Pastor – Don Hawks

Nominations and Leader Development

Chair – Don Hawks

Class of 2012 – Chip Empfield, Aleta Rauch

Class of 2013 – Mark Fahner, Kirk Smith

Class of 2014 – Benny Leonard, Sharon Leonard

By Position

Lay Leaders – Geddis Kerr and Alex Watson

Council Vice Chair – David Chan

Oakton Christian Preschool Board

Chair – Stan Ellis

Preschool Director – Glo Hadermann

At Large – Sandy Butler, Karen Deege, Lois Hidalgo, Greg Perrier

By Position

Church Office Administrator

Finance Representative

Staff Parish Relations Representative

Trustees Representative

2012 Church Leadership

(continued)

Witness Ministry

Chair – Sammye Justice
Communications and Oak Leaves Editors – Frances and Stan Ellis
Webmaster – Don Hawks
Sign Steward – Geddis Kerr
News Media – Steve Honda
Photography – David Estus
Historian – Shirley Young
Email Coordinator - Jim McGilvray

Nurture Ministry

Chair – Lois Hidalgo
Children's Church Coordinator – Tracey Seymour
Nursery Coordinator – Olesya Ellis
Membership Secretary – Church Office Administrator
Shepherds Coordinator – Virginia Mylks
Homebound Communion Coordinators – Edith Ashworth and Geddis Kerr
Library Coordinator – Frances Ellis
Prayer Vigil Coordinators – Helen Albanese and Frances Ellis
Child Protection Policy Coordinators – Jack and Willi Dalaba
Family Ministries – Wanda Kirkpatrick

Worship Ministry

Chair – Marge Javins
Usher and Acolyte Coordinator – Dannye Ivey
Children's Time Coordinator – Sammye Justice
Flower and Altar Coordinator – Frances Ellis
Liturgist Coordinators – Bill Korn (8:30), Kay Blocher (10:55)
Communion Coordinator – Susie Chan
By Position
 Pastor – Don Hawks
 Music Director – Katie Pierce
 Organist – Jan Murley

Outreach Ministry

No members at this time

Stephen Ministry

Leader – Carol Friesen
Caregivers – Jessica Brenchick, Bill Korn, Ted Lyons, Patty Skiffington, Jan Smith

2012 Church Leadership

(continued)

United Methodist Men

President – Alex Watson

United Methodist Women

President – Elsie Benson

United Methodist Youth

Director – open

Bi-District Training Day

Bi-District Training Day was the turbo-charged experience that it promised to be! It was held at Floris UMC which is an extremely impressive facility. The day started with a short worship service and a choir of young people who sang with ENTHUSIASM. The keynote speaker was Rev. Jorge Acevedo. I heard some people say that he preached the best sermon they had ever heard. There was the opportunity to attend three workshops. The workshops I attended were:

Sing to the Lord a New Song led by Rev. Milton Rodgers. *Worship and Song* is the latest supplement to the UM Hymnal (think Faith We Sing II). It has many songs with new words set to familiar tunes. We sang 71 of them. Milton Rodgers is the Minister of Music and Organist at Grace UMC in Manassas where he coordinates 18 musical groups.

Singing as Prayer: Worship in the Style of Taize led by Jim Bennett. Jim Bennett is a wonderful musician who I have heard several times and who was the accompanist for the Voices of Youth who performed at our church last summer. He has led a monthly Taize prayer service at his church for about five years. I hope to start Taize prayer services at our church, too.

What Would Jesus Give? Alternative Gift Ideas led by Juanita Csontos. What gifts would Jesus appreciate? We learned how our churches can raise money for mission and local outreach without affecting their mission and ministry budgets. We learned how to educate church and community members from the culture of commercialism to participating in an Alternative Giving event.. Watch for a table at the UMW bazaar in the fall. Juanita Csontos is a graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, a member of the Board of Church and Society, and the Virginia Conference contact person for the General Board of Global Ministries mission to Cambodia.

Frances Ellis

One Small Green Step

Beside every trash can in the church, there should also now be a recycle bin. Please be kind and use them both - Trash only in the trash cans and all recyclables in the recycle bins. Many thanks to **Sterling Wilcox** who has been delivering our recyclable paper to the recycling center and to **Tom Murley** who has volunteered to deliver the paper, plastic, glass, and metal to a recycling center for us.

UMW



The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is:

- To know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ.
- To develop a creative supportive fellowship.
- To expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Oakton UMW unit has contributed to the following organizations during the last quarter of 2011:

Shepherd's Center of Oakton
Wesley Theological Seminary Women's Guild
UMCOR Flood Buckets
Local Elementary Schools
Women's Prison Ministry
Red Bird Mission
FACETS Auction
OUMC children and youth

We sincerely thank the congregation for their help in supporting these activities of UMW.

If you wish to learn more about the projects we support, please contact one of the board members: Elsie Benson, Carol Friesen, Frances Ellis, Helen Albanese, Sally Bradford, Willi Dalaba – or come join us at one of our meetings for fellowship and planning. Happy New Year!

Upcoming UMW Events

January 21—Officer Training Day from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Korean UMC of Greater Washington
February 2—United Methodist Day at the General Assembly from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
March 17—Spiritual Life Day from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at **Oakton UMC**
April 14—Spring Prayer Breakfast, 9 a.m. at Great Falls UMC
May 4-6—Conference Spiritual Life Retreat at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center
May 19—Bi-District Day of Service to support the Wesley Service Center
June 22-24—Virginia UMC Annual Conference in Roanoke
July 27—August 1—School of Christian Mission at Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center

January Birthdays at OUMC

01—Elyse Solomon
02—Matthew Elias
03—Ted Lyons
03—Mike Wise
06—Marisa Butler
07—Bill Kays
08—Brooke Dearing
08—Don Fisher
09—Hazel Lent
10—Ashley Wilkins
11—Chris Fertal
11—Leslie Margolis
11—Jean Mitchell
11—Trudy Rupp
11—Aaron Wise
12—Kimiko Hannum
12—Alex Watson
13—Robert Powers
14—Tanner Baldwin
14—Taylor Margolis
14—Maryanne Turner
15—Larry Ekberg
15—Rubina Ellis
15—Elizabeth Kerr
15—Benny Leonard
16—Peyton Mansfield
16—Richard McGown
17—Alex Kroeger
19—Sharon Leonard
20—Claire Parsons
21—Erica Cordes
23—Raquel Barrientos
25—Doug Stenger
26—Emilie Paulk
27—Matthew Doolittle
27—Dick Javins
28—Sussy Hoffman-Mogollon
30—Glen Warrington
31—Nicole Fellows
31—Scott Saylor

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



December Tea

Once more we were treated to good food and a beautiful and joyful Christmas event, hosted by the OUMC Methodist Women, lead by Elsie Benson and this year assisted by the Bartholomew Flock, Shepherded by David and Karen Budd and Aleta Rauch. It takes many volunteers and lots of hard work to produce such a sophisticated event. A very special "thank you" also goes to our young folks for sharing their musical talents, fostering our Christmas spirits. Thank you one and all.

Our Daily Bread Support

Thanks to your generosity, OUMC delivered over 600 pounds of food during 2011 to the Our Daily Bread Pantry. We are now concentrating on the Food4Thought program which provides weekend food support to children at Marshall Roads Elementary School. This is a difficult time for these children whenever they are out of school. The pantry needs to be quickly replenished in January 2012. Please keep these children in your prayers.

Adopt a Child Holiday Program

We wish you to know that the **Adopt a Child Holiday Program** was a grand success. Four families, which included a total of 17 children, were provided with gifts that many of you purchased and wrapped, or provided the funds that enabled the Outreach Committee to do so. A truly wonderful outpouring of love for just a few of the needy living in Vienna, Reston and Fairfax. Our thanks to each of you who contributed to this program.

THE ANGEL TREE PROJECT

The Worship Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of the angel tree project again this year. Because of your generosity we were able to purchase gifts for a family of six and provide \$800.00 worth of food for the needy families of the Vienna, Oakton and Fairfax communities. Your support of the project shows the love and caring of this congregation for our neighbors who are experiencing unfortunate circumstances at this time.

A very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy year 2012 to each one.

Christmas Caroling

On December 18th, 18 people from the church met and went Christmas caroling. We visited 8 church members and then returned to the church for cookies and hot chocolate. Many thanks to all who participated. The caroling was very much appreciated.

A message from Leslie Margolis on behalf of the SPRC

Our Music Director, David Helveston, was blessed with a great promotion opportunity in his government role. In addition to being a significant step up for him, his commute was cut from over an hour to about fifteen minutes from his home. This change provided an opportunity for David and Julia to spend time together in a new way and so he tendered his resignation effective the end of the year. We wish David and Julia many blessings for the future and thank them both for their service.

As is the good Lord's way, when one door closes, another opens. We are very pleased that Katie (Hidalgo) Pierce accepted our offer to become the new Music Director effective January 1, 2012. In addition to a Bachelor in Music (Vocal Performance/Choral Conducting) from the College of William and Mary, she also holds a Masters in Teaching, Music Education from North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Katie is currently teaching in the Fairfax County Public School System and enjoying her newlywed status with Andrew.

Please offer your full support to Katie in the new role and remember, we have a seat for you in the choir.

YAF Potluck @ Margolis Home

Date: Saturday, January 21, 2012

Time: 6:30 – 10:30 p.m.

Location: Leslie and Andy Margolis' Home, Vienna, VA

Street: 9819 Bridleridge Court

Phone: 703-272-3358

Please bring a dish to share with everyone. Please be kind and RSVP to 703-272=3358 with the children headcount, as Dillon has agreed to be available to supervise the youngsters. They are down a pipestem like driveway off the left of the cul-de-sac. We'd love to have you come join us for a fun and economical night out! (And while it's nice if you can be there at the beginning, or the entire time, we understand we are all busy and can have multiple commitments, so you're welcome to come by anytime within that window too.) **Please don't forget your spare change for the Pennies for Change jar!!

Note: While most church YA groups are 20-30's ours is now the (YAF) YA Founder's as we are a bit older these days, so if you aren't fully retired, but are out of high school you will fit in with us.

NOTE: We still need hosts in the months to come. Please consider having us, we promise no white glove tests from our group.

Oakton Christian Preschool

OCP had a very busy Advent Season. For the third year, we sponsored a family through Our Daily Bread's Holiday Program. Our families donated food, clothing, and presents for our "Adopted Family". Because of their generosity, we were able to provide "Our Family" with a wonderful Christmas.

Our annual "Breakfast with Santa" on Dec 16th was a huge success.

We look forward to beginning Fall 2012 Registration and our Open House on February 3rd.

Glo Hadermann
Director

The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna

will be offering a new Self-Management program that is specifically designed to teach and support individuals with diabetes to become empowered self-managers for a healthier and happier life. The course is also designed to educate caregivers of individuals with diabetes to better understand and anticipate the needs of their loved ones.

This is a free workshop that will be conducted by Fairfax County Adult and Aging Services on **Wednesdays, from 10am to 12 noon, from January 18 through February 29 (excluding 2/15)** at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF), 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, in the Program Building in classroom #5. Please contact the SCOV office at 703-281-0538 to register or if you have any questions.



**Oakton United Methodist Church
Financial Status
Year End 2011**

	2011 BUDGET YTD	ACTUAL REC'D or EX- PENDED	DIFFER- ENCE	COMMENTS
INCOME (Giving & Bldg. use fees)	\$454,000	\$372,529 (*1)	\$81,471 (*4)	Income 18% under budget
EXPENSE: Conference/ District Appor- tionments	66,556	40,000	26,556 (*2)	
EXPENSE: Local Church items	387,294	380,933	6,361	Under budget
QUESTIONS: Contact Finance Chair, Stan Ellis				(*3)

*1 Income includes the following unbudgeted transactions:

\$2,000 transfer from pastor's discretionary fund to fund outreach budget costs,
\$10,000 one time contribution

*2 Apportionments of \$40,000 based on unbudgeted transfer of

\$40,000 of excess income from the Oakton Christian Preschool program,

*3 General operating account has a balance of \$6,292

*4 \$81,471 difference can be broken down as:

\$66,556 for apportionments not paid out of income

\$ 6,361 under run in expenses

\$ 6,354 taken from the capital improvement fund.



VIRGINIA UNITED METHODIST
CREDIT UNION

2012 College Scholarships

Calling All High School Seniors



Membership at the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union gives you access to the following 2012 scholarships:

VUMCU

(1) \$1500 Scholarship

Richmond Chapter of Credit Unions

(2) \$1500 Scholarships

Any member of a Virginia Conference United Methodist Church is eligible for membership at VUMCU and just \$5 opens an account. Scholarships are for entering freshmen and applications are due late March.

Contact Janie Hightower at: jhightower@vumcu.org to request an application packet.

www.vumcu.org
866-657-0004



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Have you made your New Year's Resolutions?

Here are some suggestions:

1. Say grace before every meal.
2. Pray without ceasing.
3. Pay God first.
4. Read all the red words in a red letter Bible.
5. Skip one meal a week and give the money you save to the poor.
6. Let God be in control of your appointment book. Start each morning with a prayer for God to make you sensitive to His divine appointments.
7. Make Biblical prosperity your goal. Biblical prosperity centers in on the health and wholeness of your spirit and soul. Make this year a year that you center in on how healthy you are spiritually and emotionally. Instead of getting into more debt where that brings anxiety to your heart, work on getting out of debt. Instead of taking on a second job just so you can have more toys, work on becoming content with what you have so you can spend more time with your children. Instead of taking a job that makes you work nights just so you can get a promotion, think outside the box and get your promotion at home by being the greatest spouse, parent, neighbor you can be.
8. Say random words of kindness and mercy to one person every day. Bless or compliment someone just because you can.



Oakton United Methodist Church
PO Box 205
2951 Chain Bridge Road
Oakton, VA 22124

Christmas Caroling

