

Oak Leaves

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

June 2010



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WWW.OAKTONUMC.ORG

From the Pastor's Desktop---June, 2010

Dear Friends,

We have several individuals at OUMC who have or will be 2010 graduates of high school or college programs this spring. If I were to share any message with them it would be this: **Each person needs to know his or her own song of the heart, and needs to sing it, proudly.**

It is sad, but I observe that most people either don't know their song or are afraid to sing it, so most people are unduly distressed. I want to encourage our graduates to not just imitate somebody else, to not just stand on the stage singing somebody else's song. It may be a great song, but if it is not yours, you are giving up your power to sources outside of yourself. I ask that you look within to the divine power that lies within which the Spirit of God has given you. Be heard, acknowledged, and appreciated for singing your song, your way. This is the message not only for our graduates, but for each one who is reading these words, regardless of your station in life.

What is your song of the heart? It is something more than you have right now. It is that which defines you as a person. Your song of the heart is what your life is all about. If you don't know your song of the heart, how can you stand straight and tall and sing it unashamedly on the stage of your life? If you don't know your story, then how are you going to know if you've lived it when you come to the end of your life?

I fear that a large number of people on this planet consider themselves unsuccessful or have some degree of frustration and unhappiness precisely because they do not know or they do not sing their own song. They get by; they exist; they breathe; they eat; they sleep; they go to work; they have children and grandchildren. And they die unfulfilled because they never sang their own song in their own way. This is a great tragedy and a tremendous waste of human life. And it is totally unnecessary.

What is the song of your heart? Is it what your parents said? Or your teachers? Or television? Or movies? Or your pastor? Or your friends? Or society? Or family? Or is it what the higher heart tells you? You and God are the only ones who know what your song is. If you're not clear, you can't sing your song; you can't live your life fully; you can't find your way. Take the time to be clear, concise, and straightforward in your song of the heart. Work at it, diligently. Don't rush it; don't be impatient. Decide to keep an appointment with God every day. It takes time. I encourage you to make an appointment with God every day to sit in the silence of prayer. Proverbs 16:3 reads, "*Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.*"

Congratulations to our graduates. I invite you and all to read and meditate on these words from the 40th Psalm (NLT):

I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the LORD. O LORD my God, you have performed many wonders for us. Your plans for us are too numerous to list. You have no equal. If I tried to recite all your wonderful deeds, I would never come to the end of them. Then I said, "Look, I have come." As is written about me in the Scriptures: "I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart.

Pastor Don

LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Pastor Don Hawks, who serves as the Chairperson of Leadership Discovery and Development (what we use to call Nominations), is happy to welcome these persons to the leadership team of OUMC: **Bryan Deege** joins the Board of Trustees, **Stan Ellis** assumes leadership of the Endowment Committee, and **Helen Albanese** joins the work of the Endowment Committee as well. In addition, the Communications Team recently has been merged with the Witness Ministry area. If you are interested in serving in a ministry area with your talents and skills, contact pastor Don or visit the church website to learn about ministry opportunities at <http://oaktonumc.org/jobvolunteeropenings.html>.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Oakton Christian Preschool (OCP)

An OUMC ministry, has an opening for Chairperson of its board. The OCP Board meets on average about once every 3 months and helps give direction to the preschool director and staff. The Board Chairperson also serves as a member of the church's Council to keep the Council informed of the preschool's activities and needs. For more information about OCP, visit their webpage and/or call the Director, Glo Hadermann, at 703.938.1233.

YOUTH DIRECTOR

Oakton UMC is seeking a part-time youth director. This is an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic person with interest and experience working with and growing Christian-based programs for youth in grades 7 through 12. The qualified candidate will be able to help the congregation plan, prepare and coordinate youth programs. The person will be responsible for developing special programs for youth, including retreats, recreation activities, service activities, educational opportunities, camps, etc. Active participation in all youth activities and church worship is required. Please submit resume with cover letter and professional references to oumc@oaktonumc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS NEEDED for the 2010-2011 Season

The Sunday School team is actively looking for a new team of coordinators to begin serving in September 2010. Lois Hidalgo and Bruce Long will relinquish the coordinators' roles when the current Sunday School year ends in late May. Lois and Bruce will be looking for other opportunities to serve, and both have indicated that they will not be available for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The Sunday School leader/coordinator position has been most effectively filled when at least two people share the responsibilities. Most of the work involves coordinating teacher availability. As of late April, all of our current teachers have committed to return for the fall classes.

If you are looking for an opportunity to serve, this is a great place to work with a team of dedicated teachers, and to watch our members of all ages explore and grow in their faith. For more information, please call either Bruce Long, Lois Hidalgo, or the church office.

High Seas Expedition:
Exploring the Mighty Love of God
Vacation Bible School
August 16 – 20, 2010
5:30 – 8:30 PM

Every year our Vacation Bible School at Oakton UMC becomes a more successful church and community event, thanks to our ever-increasing number of volunteers. We hope you'll help us prepare and/or join us for five festive summer evenings of Bible study, music, crafts, games, and, of course, food. Even if you can only help out for one night, we hope you'll consider taking part in this fun and rewarding outreach mission.

We will need adults and youth to help with:

Pre-VBS Decoration and Set-up

Pre-VBS Shopping

Meal Preparation and/or kitchen clean-up (VBS begins with a light supper served in the Large Hall) Many thanks to Betty Harwick, who will be coordinating the food again.

Friday night dessert reception on our final evening

Preschool Crew leaders and assistants (our preschool is limited to ten children, ages 3 – 5, from our OUMC family)

Elementary Crew leaders to shepherd 5 – 7 children (Kindergarten – rising 6th grade) from station to station

Station Leaders and assistants for:

Clipper Ship Crafts and Missions

Ship Rec Games

Bible Voyage (interactive Bible drama)

DVD Discussion Segment (Chadder's Sail Away Cinema)

Music will be led again by Andy Margolis (Thank you, Andy!)

Nursery Care (so that those with children younger than age three will be encouraged to volunteer)

We hope everyone will get involved to make this another unforgettable and life-changing VBS week. So come and bring your children, grandchildren, and your neighborhood children.

Come sail away with us on our High Seas Expedition as we explore the mighty love of God!

To volunteer, contact Sammye Justice, VBS Director (703-476-0608) or justall@cox.net

♪ **Grace Notes- June, 2010** ♪

As June begins, I'd like to thank everyone who helped make our Sixth Annual Handbell Desert Concert such a success. (Wow, has it been six years already?) Despite the fact that we had to hold the concert on Mother's Day this year, we had a great turnout and raised over \$400, which will enable us to purchase our badly needed new handbell tables.

Thank you, Betty Harwick, for always being there to support the handbells at OUMC. Every year after Easter, Betty comes up to me and asks, "when's the concert, and what can I do for the reception?" Betty and her reception team always help make the large social hall look its best, and take care of all the dessert offerings, from start to finish.

Wayne Malick continues to be a blessing. He not only runs sound for the concert and records our program wonderfully each year, Wayne takes time out of his schedule to come to our Saturday morning dress rehearsal and run sound for that as well. Thanks, Wayne!

This year, we were fortunate to have Andy Margolis on our program, who shared two of his own songs with the audience- a piano solo and a vocal/piano piece. Andy's willingness to jump in and share his musical gifts continues to inspire me, and I am truly grateful for all that he does to support the music program at OUMC. Thank you, Andy, for once again saying "sure, I'll do it!"

Greg Perrier made a guest appearance as Darth Vader, helping the Carillon Ringers with an important (and impossible!) bell change. Thanks, Greg, for being such a great sport, and adding a little fun to our program.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the ringers who worked so hard to put on such a great concert. Your dedication each week in rehearsals and your willingness to share your time and talents is deeply appreciated. Because of your dedication to musical excellence, we continue to provide a high standard of quality handbell music for our church and the Oakton community.

On another note, I'd like to go back to Mother's Day morning and thank all the children in the Chapel and Glory Sound choirs who shared their beautiful music with the congregation during the 10:55 a.m. worship service. We are in the midst of an exciting time at Oakton with regard to the number of children who are rising through the ranks and now participating in our music program. Many times this year, Jan and I counted up to 18 present with Glory Sound and Chapel Choir combined. Thank you to all the families who enable their children to participate in our choirs- we couldn't do it without you!

As June begins, our children's and handbell choirs will break for the summer and begin rehearsing again after Labor Day. We will look forward to hearing their music again in September!

Blessings,

Shannon

Posters for CRC

The CRC Education Committee is still looking for & would LOVE donations of any educational posters (Small or large) to share on the CRC/Mercy Hospital hall walls...so they can rotate them to keep the kids & Staff's interest level up. SO anything you or other teachers or Nurses feel are Universally appropriate & folks are getting rid of materials as the school year winds down, I'd gladly take it to the CRC folks to share with our Sierra Leone children of God.

YSIC, Lisa

"Young Adults" take a SUMMER BREAK

However, we are planning to gather and sit as a group for Saturday July 10th at Old Dominion Speedway in Manassas, VA once again this year - Green Flag 7 pm...and this event is certainly open to anyone who'd like to come & sit with us. Tickets are \$15 adult (16yrs or older) or \$6 (6-15yrs) and will be cancelled if bad weather. Please see www.olddominionspeedway.com for more details.

NOTE to All YA Members: You can view the calendar, photos or the contact file anytime by going to Yahoo groups or thru <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OUMCYoungAdults>

If you have church event photos and you'd like to share, you're welcome to share them on the site. ONLY our members can access them.

Please look for details in July for an August Pool Party to kick off our "Fall" Potlucks once again for the next season/year.

Remember while most Young Adults groups are 20s age range....OUMC's is special and our members are anyone from 20's - 50's & we'd love to have you join us! The monthly Potluck gathering rotates to different member's homes each month, usually with a month off in the winter & a month off in the summer. Coming only requires bringing some kind of dish to share and your loose change offering for Pennies for Change. Childcare is usually available on site & the kids have a fun time too.

We will need hosts going forward, so please be thinking about whether you'd be able to host a future gathering...You pick the date that month that works best for you then just let Lisa Lanser or Wayne Malick know so we can mark the YA calendar (lisalanser@yahoo.com)! Hosting is as easy as opening the door and providing the utensils & drinks.

Mark Your Calendars!



On Sunday, November 14, in honor and support of our military, Family Ministries will host a potluck lunch directly after the 10:55 a.m. service.

We are 'enlisting' your help early! Please search your closets for any and all military memorabilia through the ages (e.g., uniforms, parts of uniforms, camp equipment, mess kits, old posters) for use in our display of memorabilia from all branches of our military. Also, we're looking for photographs—old and new—of loved ones in their uniforms. Be sure to put your name and contact information on anything that you loan to us so that it may be returned to you.

We thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Wanda Kirkpatrick at 703-591-3437.



Churches Respond to Flooding Across Southeast

United Methodist churches across the U.S. southeast opened their hearts and their doors to people stranded by the recent storms which killed at least 20 people in Tennessee, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Arkansas. Damage to United Methodist churches and property throughout the region is being assessed.

Even after record breaking rains stopped and the clean-up began, rivers and creeks continued to crest. On one Monday, the Cumberland River in Nashville was 11 feet above flood stage. Interstates were closed, thousands were displaced from their homes, and hotels and nursing homes had to be evacuated. Parts of Tennessee received as much as 20 inches of rain.

These storms spawned at least 12 tornados in Arkansas. Thunderstorms producing tornados and heavy rains moved into Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Donations to UMCOR's "U.S. Disaster Response" relief efforts can be placed in offering plates. Simply designate checks for UMCOR Advance #901670, "U.S. Disaster Response".

A Salute to our Graduates



Jillie and Tori Terrill, twin daughters of John Terrill and Polly Pando-Terrill, will graduate from Madison High School in June. They began attending OUMC as sixth graders. Involved in many church activities, including Youth Group, Glory Sound Choir, Vacation Bible School, Martha's Table and Sunday School, the girls also frequently serve as acolytes. Jillie is currently the youth representative on the Staff-Parish Committee. The sisters share a love of dance and drama.

Jillie has been on the Madison Dance Team for four years. Co-Captain of the team for two years, she is a two-year recipient of the Universal Dance Association's All Star Award. She has competed in local competitions with her team as a placing soloist and has also competed nationally at UDA's National Competition in Orlando, Florida, this year reaching semi-finals (25/70 teams). Jillie has been very involved in theatre at Madison. She acted in four musicals and choreographed three, including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and this year's production of *Singin' in the Rain*. She has been nominated for two Cappie Awards (the high school theater equivalent of Broadway's Tony Award) for Best Female Dancer in 2008 and Choreography in 2010. The Cappies Gala on June 13, 2010 will be televised on FCPS Channel 21. Jillie served as house management head for the past two years. She is a member of the Thespian Honor and the History Honor Societies. She was recently named Student of the Month for her work with autistic students throughout this school year. This fall Jillie will be attending Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA, where she hopes to dance on their team and possibly minor in dance. Still undecided about her major, she plans to continue her work with children with autism or some other form of social work.

Tori was also a four-year member of the Madison Dance Team, Co-Captain for two years, and a two-year recipient of the UDA All Star Award. As active in the Madison Theatre Department as her sister, Tori appeared in four musicals and acted as Choreographer with Jillie. She was also nominated for a Cappie Award for her work as choreographer for *Singin' in the Rain* this year. She was very active in Drama Crew (set building and painting) during her four years at Madison. A member of the Thespian Honors Society and the History Honors Society, she was elected, as well, to the National Honor Society. Her work with autistic high school students earned her the Madison Student of the Month Award. Tori plans to attend Christopher Newport University in the fall. She is considering a major in Hospitality and hopes to continue her dancing.

Our Oakton UMC family has been blessed over the years by the smiling faces and bubbly, good-natured presence of these two sweet sisters. We will certainly miss them!

A Salute to our Graduates (Continued)

Rubina Ellis, daughter of Stan and Frances Ellis, has been attending Oakton UMC since she was five years old. Her siblings are Olesya and Paul. She has been involved in the life of our church since her childhood, when she sang with the Chapel Choir, served as an acolyte, was active in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. While still in middle school, she served as Crafts assistant during VBS. For the past several years, she has led Games during VBS. Rubina currently serves on the board of the United Methodist Women. She takes a big role in organizing and recruiting for service events, as well as in doing much of the hands-on work. She also regularly assists in elementary Sunday School classes and in Gateways to Worship. Rubina's many interests include participation in a wide variety of sports. During high school, she was active in intramural basketball, soccer and volleyball. Her enjoyment in working with people of all ages is evident in the broad scope of her volunteer activities. She is currently putting her people skills to good use in her job at Glory Days Grill in Herndon, as she works to save money for college. After graduating from high school this June, she will be attending Landmark College in Putney, Vermont. Her initial career interests include the fields of psychology and physical training. Our Oakton church family has been enlivened by Rubina's boundless enthusiasm and zest for life. It has been a privilege to watch her grow and mature. We hope she will never stay away long!

Katie Hidalgo is graduating from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill with a Masters of Arts in Teaching/Music Education. She will return home at the end of June, and hopes to find a teaching position in the area. Katie's goal is to become the Choral Director at a local high school. During the next year, she will also be planning her upcoming wedding which will take place in July of 2011. It is a great pleasure for our OUMC family to welcome Katie back after her completion of her graduate work. Since her birth, she has added much to the life of our church.

Bianca Smith moved to Virginia from Yelm, Washington (near Olympia) last summer to spend her final year of high school here with her father, Kirk Smith, and stepmother Jan Brewer Smith. Her two siblings Bryce and Brittany continue to live there. In Washington, she was editor of her high school newspaper and played clarinet in the band. Bianca's patience and determination as a nurturer and caregiver allowed her to nurse her mother, Kate Steward, back to health and greatly improved fitness over the course of a number of years. To commemorate their shared achievement, the two climbed Mt. Rainier in August of 2009. Bianca's resolve and dedication to fitness paid off; she was the sole female climber to reach the summit. During her senior year at Robinson High, she rowed for the crew team. She has enjoyed the chance this year to become better acquainted with Sarah and Noah, her step-siblings. Here at Oakton UMC, she has regularly attended the young adult Sunday School class. An accomplished, well-rounded student and talented cook, Bianca looks forward to starting college this fall at Virginia Tech, where she will major in nutrition. Her great love of snow, she predicts, may lead her to seek out the snowiest spot in the U.S. after graduating from college. We are thankful for the chance to have Bianca here with us this year as she prepares for her further education.

June Birthdays at OUMC

June	3	Cheng Tang
	6	Hal Sveinsson
	9	Edith Ashworth
	9	Karen Budd
	9	Melva Jones
	12	Dylan Saluja
	18	Kyle Skiffington
	18	Barbara McGilvray
	21	Pat Dunham
	21	Lisa Lanser
	22	Dick Brewer
	23	Troy Marable
	24	Brandon Thorpe
	25	Thelma Byram
	25	Samuel Deege
	25	Ella Baldwin
	26	Justin Albert
	27	John Patterson
	27	Mike Vitko
	28	Silvia Tobar
	29	Jeff Mansfield
	30	Alexander Dearing
	30	Winn Rhinehart
	30	Mary Ann Johnson



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!

Oakton Christian Preschool News

OCP enjoyed celebrating Mother's Day at our annual Spring Concert. The children sang beautifully and the concert closed with the children handing flowers to their moms. Everyone enjoyed cookies and lemonade before heading out to play on the playground.

As our school year comes to a close, we are looking forward to the end-of-year Field Day and the 4-Year Old Class Graduation.

We are currently enrolling for Fall 2010 and have openings in all classes. We welcome children ages 2 ½ -Pre-K. Our hours are Monday-Friday from 9:30 am until 12:15pm. Children are not required to be potty-trained.

Oakton Christian Preschool's success is a result of the wonderful children, their parents, our teachers and the wonderful support of the OUMC community. THANK YOU!

Mabel Ellen Cordes

Former OUMC member Mabel Ellen Cordes was called to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on January 26, 2010. She passed away early that morning, surrounded by her family. She is survived by Al Cordes, her husband of 66 years. Mabel Ellen and Al were members of Oakton from 1973 to 1988. Mabel Ellen was very active in the Sanctuary Choir and a member of United Methodist Women.

Summer Job at Camp Highroad

Are you looking for a way to spend a fun filled summer and to make a difference in your community? Do you have a passion for Christ, children, and the outdoors? If so, then Camp Highroad might just be the place for you this summer. Camp Highroad has a few more summer camp counselor positions available for college students (especially females) who are willing to share their faith with campers and to help campers build community living skills while enjoying the great outdoors. Counselors will start with staff training on June 10th-18th. Summer camp begins June 20th and runs Sunday-Friday each week through August 6th. Counselors earn \$1,500 for the summer. If this sounds like a job for you, please contact Adam Davis, Camp Highroad Summer Camp Director at 540-687-3968 or use the online form Found at www.camphighroad.org.

Electronic Oak Leaves

If you would like to receive your copy of the Oak Leaves electronically, be sure the Church Office has your current e-mail address. Please be aware you can always find the last four issues of the Oak Leaves on our web site at www://oaktonumc.org/aboutus/pastnewsletters.html

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.

