

Oak Leaves

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

November 2009



2951 Chain Bridge Road Oakton, VA 22124

703-938-1234

WWW.OAKTONUMC.ORG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESKTOP - November, 2009

Dear Friends,

An epitaph once found on a tombstone in a cemetery simply had the name of the person, and underneath the name it said, "Thanks for everything!"

As you prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving again this year, I want to suggest this: A lot more than a special meal is going to take place in your home on Thanksgiving Day. It is an opportunity to gather together and appreciate each other again.

When the Pilgrims celebrated Thanksgiving, they didn't celebrate with roast turkey and mashed potatoes and all the delicious foods you see in the pictures. They sat down at the table with five grains of corn on each plate. That's the way they celebrated, because they wanted to remember how good their life was. The magic of the feast was in what they did with their five grains of corn. One person at a time would pick up one grain of corn and tell the others about something that he or she was thankful for. Each person in turn expressed thankfulness for something until each had spoken five times -- once for each grain of corn on his or her plate. They would often express their thanks for each other. Can you imagine what a spiritual feast they had?

I want to have that kind of Thanksgiving this year. I urge you to have it too. Perhaps you will want to make this your brand new family tradition this year: Share not only the food but share thanksgiving with one another at your table for what has been good in your life this year and what you appreciate about the others who are at your thanksgiving table.

Measure your life by thanksgivings, not by the bad things that have happened. I pray this Thanksgiving is your richest ever. I pray that it is filled with love and filled with harmony. I pray this Thanksgiving is mysterious, with the spirit of God working through you, your friends, and your family. This too is my prayer for our congregation.

This Thanksgiving as you sit down to share your meal with your loved ones may your prayer be:

I bless more than the meal: I bless what's happening around the meal and the individual people sharing the meal. I bless our distant relatives who are far away from the meal. May we all be one in God's love. I pray this in Jesus Christ's name and I give thanks. "That I may proclaim with the voice of Thanksgiving, and tell of all Your wondrous works." (Psalms 26:7).... Amen.

Have a thank-filled Thanksgiving.

Pastor Don

Worship and Preaching Plan for November and December

November

- 01 WHO AM I? WHY AM I HERE? Revelation 7: 9-14 (All Saints Sunday)
- 08 TAIN'T WHAT YOU DO--IT'S THE WAY YOU DO IT Mark 12:38-44
- 15 ON THE END OF THE WORLD -- Mark 13:1-8
- 22 MY IMAGE OF CHRIST -- John 18:28-38 -- (Christ the King Sunday)
- 29 Advent 1
 - 08.30 DRESSING FOR WORK -- Luke 21:23-28, 34-36
 - 10.55 HANGING OF THE GREENS

December

- 06 SPIRITUAL BANKRUPTCY -- Luke 3:1-6 -- Advent 2
- 13 Advent 3
 - 08.30 -- A Service of Lessons and Carols
 - 10.55 -- Christmas Cantata
- 20 LET IT BE -- Luke 1.39-56 -- Advent 4 & Confirmation Service
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
 - 5.00 -- FAMILY SERVICE
 - 7.30 -- CANDLELIGHTING & COMMUNION SERVICE --
What in the World Is God Doing? -- Luke 2:1-20
 - 11.00 -- CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE -- What In the World Is God Doing?
-- Luke 2.1-20
- 27 Guest Speaker

CHRISMONS NEEDED

"Hanging of the Greens Sunday" will be held November 29th this year. Barbara Feurtado has a few "beaded kits" waiting to be assembled. All the materials are furnished and time and patience are all that is necessary. The finished product will be added to our Chrismon collection.

Sunday School News

Christians in Action...Sunday School volunteers

If you want to see Christians in action, come to any Sunday School room at OUMC on a Sunday morning. It is that simple. It takes the entire church to open Sunday School, and we have had a great response to the call for volunteers. From the nursery to the adult classes, our dedicated volunteers are sharing their Christian spirit in so many ways. Teaching, infant care, children's music, confirmation class, making coffee...a seemingly endless list. Thanks to all of you who are sharing your spirit and skills.

Adult Christian Education – Three Classes Sunday mornings

Bible Study 1: The continuing study of the Book of Psalms, led by Allen Barnes

Bible Study 2: The Book of John, studies led by Geddis Kerr

Adult elective: "Proving Genesis – The convergence of scientific and biblical wisdom" led by Karen Budd.

These classes will run from November 1 – December 20. Based on class size, locations may vary. Check for signs to direct you on Sunday mornings. The next adult series will start on January 3.

Adult Bible Study – Meets Sunday Afternoons at OUMC, 2:30 – 4:30

The adult Bible Study group, led by Phil and Kimiko Hannum, is meeting on Sunday afternoons at OUMC, **Room 11**. For more information, please call Phil or Kimiko at 703-378-8507.



Oakton Christian Preschool

Oakton Christian Preschool has been very busy since school started in September. We spent the first weeks of school learning about our new friends and settling into our classroom routines. The beginning of fall came taste-tests with apples-yummy! Halloween festivities included our annual Halloween Party. The children arrived in costume and were able to Trick-or-Treat to the other classes. After a restful long weekend, the children shared their Halloween candy as part of our annual "Candy for Soldiers" project where the children made beautiful Christmas cards for the soldiers. We are happy to be able to take part in this project with the United Methodist Women.

FORGIVENESS



For many people forgiveness is one of the hardest steps in our progress toward freedom of spirit. Yet it is essential.

Forgiveness is something we offer others and something we accept for ourselves.

Forgiveness is a decision, a choice. It is not saying that what was done was acceptable. It does not give permission for the behavior to be repeated. It does mean you are trying to see beyond the behavior to the person behind the act. Forgiveness is an attitude. It implies you are willing to accept your part of the behavior. You may need to adjust your perceptions of what happened. Forgiveness is a process. You may need to shift your perceptions over and over. You may need to forgive over and over ("...Not seven times seven, but seventy times seven.").

Forgiveness is a way of life. It can us help see this moment alone, without the past clouding the vision.

Forgiveness is seen by almost everyone as an essential part of life – 94% according to one Gallup Poll. However, 85% said they would need outside help to actually achieve forgiveness.

If you want someone to walk beside your forgiveness journey, a Stephen Minister is willing to walk along with you. Please contact Pastor Don Hawks (hawks.don@gmail.com) or Stephen Leader, Carol Friesen (caroljfriesen@gmail.com). Brought to you by Oakton UMC Stephen Ministry.

Outreach Committee Activities



The Lamb Center -

The committee prepares and delivers lunch once a month to homeless people and the working poor at The Lamb Center in Fairfax. We currently have enough volunteers to support this effort.

FACETS -

Community Walkathon (This mini-walkathon involves about a 20-minute walk.)

Sunday, November 8, 2009, 12:45 pm to 4:00 pm

Robinson Square Community Center (near George Mason University)

4400 St. Edwards Place, Fairfax VA 22030

Stop by anytime! It will be a family friendly event with food and interactive games for kids to raise awareness about homelessness!

Martha's Table -

The committee sponsors a trip to Martha's Table on the 4th Saturday of each month. The group of volunteers meets in the church parking lot at 9:20 am and departs from there. We return to the church by 1:00 pm.

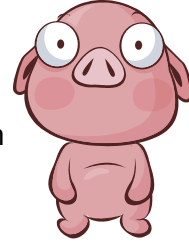
For more information about the above, please call Barbara McGilvray at 703-264-0383 or email her at mcgilvrayj@aol.com.

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.



Barbecue and Silent Auction for Bill's Kitchen



The first BIG fundraiser for Bill's kitchen is a NC Barbecue, Christmas Craft Table, and Silent Auction scheduled for Saturday, November 7th from 2-7 pm. Plan to be a part of this first fundraiser and bring your family and friends. NC barbecue will be pre-sold at \$9.00 a pound. Tickets for the event are \$10.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children (ages 5-10), and children under 5 attend for free. Contact Barbara Fisher at 703-280-2965 for contributions or additional information.

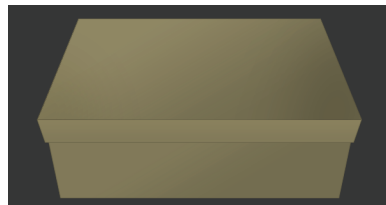
Donations of services and quality items (no garage sale or flea market goods) are needed for the Silent Auction. These donations are needed as soon as possible.

An ongoing fundraiser is the "Jugs for Change". Large jugs are being placed in the back of the Sanctuary during both services. Get in the habit of emptying your pockets as you leave church. You will never miss that loose change and it can make a DIFFERENCE towards reaching our goal. (\$\$\$bills also accepted.) If you prefer to make your donations by check please write them to OUMC with a memo for "Bill's Kitchen" and place them in the offering plate.

The New Kitchen is an exciting and important project. The committee is working diligently and asks for your prayers and assistance. Let's all work together to raise the funds for "Bill's Kitchen".

OUMC Shoebox Christmas

Plastic shoeboxes will be available in the back of the Sanctuary for those who would like to participate in this wonderful program. So that needy children around the world may also have a Christmas present, the shoeboxes are filled with items for either boys or girls. There will be a brochure that explains what you need to do including suggested items for various age groups. Please return the completed Christmas Shoebox to the same table no later than **November 15, 2009**.



♪♪ Grace Notes November 2009 ♪♪

November is a time for being thankful- for family, friends, health, and for our church. I am thankful for all the children, youth, and adults that make up our music program here at OUMC, for without them, our worship experience would not be complete.



As we all start thinking about the Thanksgiving holiday and the weeks that follow, our calendars and to-do lists start filling up exponentially. While November may have a few "free" weekends, for most of us, December ends up being a wild race of parties, concerts, deadlines, shopping, and other various flurries of activity with Christmas as the finish line. Sometimes it's hard to make church and God a priority during this busy season. Well.... here are two dates that hopefully will enable you to set aside a little time for God and for the true meaning of the Christmas season:

December 13- 10:55 a.m.- Christmas Cantata- presented by the Chapel, Glory Sound and Sanctuary Choirs

December 20- 4:00 p.m.- Second Annual CRC Christmas Benefit Concert- come hear beautiful Christmas music and support a very important mission of our church

I hope November brings many moments of thankfulness for all of you, and that December brings some moments of peace and reflection amid the holiday bustle.

In Christ,
Shannon

OUMC Christmas Tea

Sunday, December 6, 2009 will be a special day for the congregation, families and visitors to our church. Everyone is invited to our traditional Christmas Tea immediately following the 10:55 am service. There will be Christmas display, children's story and a special children's tea, along with the good company of old and new friends.

**OUMC UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)
Invites Women of the Church and Community:**

FELLOWSHIP meets the second Saturday of each month (Nov 14, 2009) in the small social hall at 8:30 am. Bring your own breakfast.

Susanna Circle meets the second Tuesday of each month (Nov 10, 2009) in the small social hall at 12:00 noon for pot luck lunch.

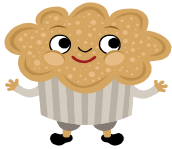
Each meeting has a combination of social, nurturing, and spiritual activity. We welcome and encourage all women to join us. You need not be a member of the OUMC to attend.

Family Ministry's Fund Raiser

We are selling Giant and Shoppers Food Warehouse gift cards after the 8:30 am service in the Library and after the 11:00 am service in the narthex. The cards are being sold at face value in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100. All funds raised will go toward church programs and ministries.



Sunday Morning Socials



Stop by the small social hall on the first floor for coffee, juice, and light breakfast items on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 10:30. We are trying this out through December to see if it has any appeal for our church community. Grab and go or

**In Memory of
Jane C. DeNunzio
12/17/1915 – 09/22/2009**

On Tuesday Sept. 22nd, longtime member Jane DeNunzio passed away at The Virginian Retirement Community. She was 93. Jane was the widow of Alfred DeNunzio; Mother of **Lois D. Hidalgo**, and Grandmother of **Katie Hidalgo**. She is also survived by two step-daughters, Linda Morley and Judy Hawes-- their four sons and their children.

During her lifetime, she was a pilot and loved to fly. She also was a horse lover and at one time owned six horses. When she was young, she spent her summers playing the bugle and trumpet at many different church camps, just so she could attend camp all summer long. She was a member of one of the first few Girl Scout troops in the USA. She studied Chemistry at Winthrop College and Duke Univ. Jane was a lab technician at Walter Reed Army Hospital during WWII. She later became a research microbiologist for the US Government where she met her husband Al.

Jane and her family joined OUMC in **1964**, after moving to Hunter Mill Road from Alexandria. (Katie is a third generation member of OUMC.) Until about 9 years ago, she was very active in OUMC, serving on almost every committee within the church. She held positions on Staff Parish, Finance, Trustees, Council on Ministries and many others. She was also an Arlington District Lay Speaker. Jane was very active in the United Methodist Women and was once President here at Oakton. She also held various Arlington District UMW Officer positions. Over the years, she enjoyed singing in the Sanctuary Choir, teaching Sunday School, and helping out with VBS. Her favorite activity was Bible Study!! At one time she was a member of 3 different Bible Studies a week in addition to Sunday School. When she was 80 years old, she traveled to Russia with a mission group, to take Bibles and start up Bible Study groups in small towns there.

Until a few years ago, she enjoyed writing not only for the Oak Leaves, but for the Upper Room, and state and national UMC publications as well. Jane wished to be remembered not for her actions and accomplishments during her lifetime, but for her devoted service to "My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ".

Thank you all so much for all the cards, pictures, notes and prayers that you sent our way after the death of my mother. We really appreciate all that you have done to help us through this time. Lois D. Hidalgo

Thank You to Our Church Family

The people of "The Friendly Church on the Corner" have surely been a blessing to Jack and to me. We have so many to thank and so much to be thankful for--our wonderful extended family for the Furrows as we faced one crisis after another. It took a long time for us to recognize that I had too much medication [gradually building in my system]. I was hospitalized in January because I was dizzy and falling and confused. Next Jack's pharmacy sent him too little medication [less than half of one crucial RX] and with a new doctor it was two months before it was discovered and by then it was his turn to go to the hospital. While he was there I fell and was operated on in Fairfax Hospital; then spent three weeks in rehabilitation while trying to find care for Jack as he was ready to come home before I did.

Church members brought Holy Communion, the sermons and complete text of the services we had missed. And we had visitors when our separate locations were discovered, including visits from Pastor Don Hawks and Rev. John Tate.

OAKTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, [also The Shepherd Center of Oakton and Vienna which OUMC sponsors] HAVE RESPONDED SO GENEROUSLY, and led by the choir a program of rides where ever needed, meals with much appreciated visits, as well as cards and notes and prayers. We even had furniture moved and a downstairs bed ready before we came home, the lawnmower was repaired and the lawn mowed. I suspect we will never know everything that was done, but we felt the Holy Spirit surrounding us.

Our thanks,
Helen and Jack Furrow

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.

November Birthdays at OUMC

Nov. 5 Margaret Iglehart
6 Rex Turner
8 Addison Reiter
8 Deborah Thorpe
9 Justine Thorpe
10 Marilyn Kolb
10 Kevin McDonald
12 Gerald Bee
15 Wanda Kirkpatrick
15 Patricia McClenny
16 Jerry Bee
18 Ben Clayton
20 Emily Hoover
25 Charity Reiter
27 Bill Gamble
28 Beth Dearing
29 Jane Brewer
30 Blake Butler
30 Anna Hartzell



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

The Hermitage in Northern Virginia

Annual Hermitage Holiday Bazaar
Friday, November 13 from 2:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 14 from 9:00 a.m. - noon
5000 Fairbanks Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22311

The Hermitage Guild is sponsoring their annual bazaar in the auditorium of the Hermitage in NOVA. For sale this year are handcrafted items, homemade jams and jellies, a variety of homemade baked goods, assorted items crafted by the residents, furniture and much more. Please come and join us for fun and fellowship and great Christmas shopping. All monies made from the bazaar stay here in Northern Virginia to benefit the residents at the Hermitage. Hope to see you there!

23rd Psalm (for work)

The Lord is my real boss, and I shall not want.
He gives me peace, when chaos is all around me.
He gently reminds me to pray and do all things without murmuring and complaining.

He reminds me that He is my source and not my job.
He restores my sanity everyday and guides my decisions that
I might honor him in all that I do

Even though I face absurd amounts of e-mails, system crashes, unrealistic
deadlines, budget cutbacks, gossiping co-workers, discriminating supervisors and an aging body
that doesn't cooperate every morning,
I still will not stop - for He is with me! His presence,
His peace, and His power will see me through.

He raises me up, even when they fail to promote me.
He claims me as His own, even when the company threatens to let me go.
His Faithfulness and love is better than any bonus check.

His retirement plan beats every 401k there is!
When it's all said and done, I'll be working for Him a
whole lot longer and for that, I BLESS HIS NAME!!!!!!

Arlington District News

Arlington District Leadership Training Day

Leadership Training Day is Saturday, January 9, 2010, 9 AM - 2:30pm, at the Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), Annandale Campus.

Registration:

\$25 registration will be open October 15-December 18, 2009

\$60 registration on day of the event ONLY

Register at www.NOVAUMC.org

Classes fill quickly; register early to get your first choices

Arlington District News (cont.)

Hope for Africa Children's Choir Concerts in Northern Virginia

The Virginia Conference welcomes the Hope for Africa Children's Choir from Humble School in Uganda, East Africa Conference. They will be visiting churches in the Arlington and Alexandria Districts in November. Plan to attend a concert and catch the joy and energy of these children as they minister to us through music. Some Churches will be hosting and taking time to develop friendships through cross cultural sharing , children to children. All concerts are in the early evening and last for half an hour. Call Rev. Nancy Robinson 804-873-1487 or the Conference Mission Office for further information. Concert schedule:

Nov. 8 & 9 - Burke UMC,
Nov. 11 - Annandale UMC
Nov. 13 - Great Falls UMC
Nov. 14 - Charles Wesley UMC
Nov. 15 - Prince of Peace UMC & Grace UMC
Nov. 16 - Grace UMC
Nov. 18 - Korean UMC of Greater Washington
Nov. 20 - Fairfax UMC
Nov. 22 - Crossroads UMC

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>.

Bi-District Finance Workshop

November 21, 9am-Noon: Bi-district Finance workshop at Springfield UMC. Open to all finance committee members, church treasurers, business managers, stewardship chairs and clergy. RSVP to [Leon Newbanks](mailto:Leon.Newbanks@novaumc.org) at businessmanager@novaumc.org or 703-820-7200.

Local Church Events

Oakton Church of the Brethren—16th Annual Christmas Craft Show

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 19, 20, 21

Back again by popular demand, our craft show features a wide variety of hand-made items and craft supplies for purchase, a bake sale, and a soup and sandwich lunch. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 19 and 20, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21. It all takes place downstairs in our church.

Area Events

FACETS will host a 'Taste of Fall with FACETS' on November 14 at The Northern Virginia Community College, Ernst Cultural Center in Annandale. The doors open at 7pm There will be delicious food and both a silent and live auction. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased on the FACETS website at www.FacetsCares.org.

Gleaning Event—Turnip Harvest

Where: Marker Miller Farm, 3035 Cedar Creek Grade, Opequon, VA

When: November 7, 10am until 12 noon (Rain or mud date is Nov.14 -same time)

You and your family are invited to come out and spend several hours harvesting food to help those at risk of hunger.

Dress for the weather. Adults bring a knife. Children will pull up the turnips. There will be food and fun for everyone. **Prizes for the largest turnip.** Bring a friend and help make a difference in our community.

We will also be collecting candy to fill the CCAP Christmas mugs. There will be a donation container on site. Candy must be individually wrapped pieces.

Directions:

From I-81, Take Virginia Exit 310 onto Route 37 North; Proceed approximately 2 miles to the Opequon/Cedar Creek Grade exit; Turn Left on Route 622/Cedar Creek Grade.; Go 2 miles to village of Opequon.

Turn left across bridge, and proceed ; 1--1/4 miles to the Market on the Left.

Information email: rebate@visuallink.com

