



The Old Is New News

Keeping our church family connected and informed.

A Word from our Pastor

Greetings to all and welcome to the first OGC Newsletter of 2024. And what a start to the year it has been! We *finally* saw the launch of our brand spanking new Mississippi-West Tennessee Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church, and boy O' boy did it live up to its billing! I don't know about everyone else, but I have been anticipating this day since even before I officially became your pastor. After watching several conferences across the U.S. hold their convening gatherings and hearing the excitement and joy of participants as the Holy Spirit showed up and enlivened every single event, I was more than ready to experience it for myself.

Experience it I did! And it was everything I had hoped for and more. Not only was the conference doused in spirituality. Not only was it filled with a palpable presence of the Holy Spirit (enough to make your hair stand on end). But highest leaders of the church were talking about (and getting excited about!) such things as scriptural holiness, class meetings, biblical authority, and more. WoW! Those are the very things that drew me into ministry in the first place, and witnessing them become the siren calls of the leadership of our denomination had me literally dancing with joy in the aisles. I had been waiting so long for those things to happen that the whole "Abstinence makes the heart grow fonder" thing became reality for my new life as a Global Methodist pastor.

I'm sure some of you when you hear me going on about "Scriptural Holiness" and such, probably either wonder what that's all about or shrink from it thinking it's something beyond your reach. That's not the case at all and you don't need to be afraid to think of yourself as being holy. Holiness is really nothing more than heeding the Bible's call to "be holy, for I [the Lord] am holy." (1 Peter 1:16) Which by the way, doesn't mean you have to be a Saint of the Church, or a pope, or a priest, or a pastor, or anything else. All it means to be "holy" is to be set apart for God's exclusive use. So, for instance, if you have a holy altar, that altar belongs to God and can only be used by God. When Paul calls the folks at Corinth "Saints" or "Holy" people, all he is saying is that they have been given a new identity because of what Christ did for them on the cross and they now belong to God and can only be used by Him.

When you think about it that way, doesn't it just make sense that when you surrender to Christ, you are surrendering everything to God, and therefore, should rightfully only be available for use as one of God's own? That's holiness, and considering the alternative, I think it's not only an accessible place to want to be, but a desirable standard to strive for in one's life. "I want to be holy" is not a sentence I would have always been comfortable saying out loud. Now I relish it as an all-in servant of Jesus Christ, and as such am motivated to share that "scriptural holiness" with everyone and in every place I possibly can. One of the main reasons I love Methodism is because it unabashedly claims that banner as its standard-bearer of the faith.

All that said, if you think that a banner of holiness might be a whole lot easier to claim than it is to actually live into, don't worry, you're not alone. Then again, if it was easy, everyone would be doing it and doing it right. We'll be talking over the next months (and maybe even years) about life applications of holiness and how to live into the call to be holy as God is holy, and it is my hope you will relax your barriers and just enjoy the ride. Some of what we'll be talking about might seem a little (or a lot) foreign at first, but trust me, after a while, it not only gets easier, but a lot of what we'll be exploring will become second nature and things you don't want to live without.

I hope your February is filled with the love of Christ, a solid hope for the future, and a joyful holiness that draws you nearer to the life God wants for all His children.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ted

IN THE KNOW

BLOOD DRIVE

The Oak Grove Church Spring Blood Drive is Sunday, February 4 from 8 am until 1 pm. Blood supplies are critically low, so please pray about giving.

SCOUT SUNDAY

Sunday, February 4 is Scout Sunday. We will welcome Scout Troop 97 as they worship with us and join us in leading worship.

MEN'S CLUB

All men are invited to Men's Club on Monday, February 5 at 5:30 pm in the Family Life Center.

PRINCESS BALL

The MES Circle is sponsoring a Princess Ball for young ladies ages 2-16 on Saturday, February 10 from 6-8 pm in the Family Life Center. Tickets are \$15. For each additional young lady in the same family tickets are \$5. Young ladies may be escorted by father, grandfather, uncle or special friend. Escorts do not need a ticket. Tickets are available until February 6 from one of the MES ladies or in the church office.



VALENTINE DAY LUNCHEON

The Men's Club is hosting a Valentine's Day Luncheon for Widows, Widowers, Divorcees, Never Marrieds and Singles on Wednesday, February 14 in the Family Life Center. We will gather at 11 am, have a blessing at 11:30 am and then enjoy a delicious meal together. If you know of someone who should be invited, please extend an invitation to them and then let Jimmy Carpenter know. We are celebrating this special day in the right way!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is February 14. We will have an Ash Wednesday Service at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary and then go to the Family Life Center for a Fellowship Meal at 6:30 pm.

NURSING HOME VISITATION

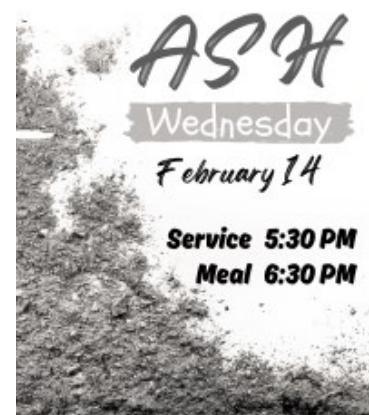
Congregational Care will be visiting the area nursing homes on Saturday, February 17. They invite you to join them at the church at 9:30 am to go.

ALTAR'D

Join Pastor Ted for a Wednesday Night Lenten Devotional Bible Study, Altar'd, beginning February 21 at 6:30 pm in the Family Life Center. You do not have to attend the class to enjoy the devotional book which is available in the foyer for \$13.

MES CIRCLE

All ladies are invited to MES Circle on Monday, February 26 at 6 pm in the Family Life Center.





**PARENTS OF
YOUTH AND CHILDREN!**

**MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11
11 AM
SANCTUARY**



It is time to start praying and planning for this summer's VBS! Laura Baird and Cindy Oubre were able to accompany me to The Ark in KY for us to learn all about this year's theme, ***The Great Jungle Journey, an Epic Cruise from Genesis to Revelation***. This is one of the best VBS curriculums that I have seen and I am so excited that we are bringing it to OGC for our children and children of the community. This is our 1st official Vacation Bible School for Oak Grove Church and I want it to be the best ever. My mission and my prayer is that we will bring the hope of the Gospel to kids and their families. The first thing I must do is recruit volunteers for this exciting journey. If you are willing to help or participate in any way, please let me know. I cannot wait to see how God is going to use this church to bring children to Him! Blessings await!

Kaycee

Please pray that:

- the Lord will bring many children to our VBS program so that they can hear the gospel
- the Lord will use this VBS program to draw children to himself
- the Lord will provide needed donations for our crafts, snacks and games
- that the Lord would bring in all the workers we need, and that they will be enthusiastic, excited, loving and sensitive to the children's needs
- that, most of all, God will be pleased, glorified, exalted and blessed by VBS!

And then there were...





Wednesday Night Meal

5:30-6:15 pm

Adults \$6 Children \$3 Family Plan \$20

February 7

Menu: Beef Tips w/rice, Whole Green Beans, Garden Salad, Biscuits, Assorted Desserts

Children's Menu: Fish Sticks/Tater Tots

Shoppers: Kaycee Hairston/Lori Terrill

Class to Serve: Security Team

Desserts: Candice Entrekin, LaNita Fisher, Woody Gammel, Kaycee Hairston, Tess Hammond, Laura Hojem

February 14 (Meal at 6:30 pm)

Menu: Loaded Baked Potatoes and Salad

Children's Menu: Pizza and Salad

Shoppers: Laura Baird/Peggy Woodruff

Class to Serve: Security Team

Desserts: Cakes and Ice Cream

February 21

Menu: Chicken Spaghetti, Broccoli, Garden Salad, Rolls, Assorted Desserts

Children's Menu: Pizza and Salad

Shoppers: Fred/Jane Boudreaux

Class to Serve: Security Team

Desserts: Penny Kochtitzky, Melinda Lucas, B.J. Mathias, Julie McDonald, Susan McQueen, Kim Morgan

February 28

Menu: Baked Layered Spaghetti, Vegetable Medley, Garden Salad, Rolls, Assorted Desserts

Children's Menu: Same

Shoppers: Susan McQueen

Class to Serve: Youth

Desserts: Dawn Nuss, Jamie O'Quinn, Cindy Oubre, Cindy Pace, Judy Parker, Roland Pimm

THANK YOU!



Dear Oak Grove Church,

Words cannot express how much your outpouring of care meant to me while I was in rehab from my hip replacement surgery. Thank you all for the prayers, cards and calls I received.

Thank you to Pastor Ted for visiting me in the hospital, to the church for the precious Christmas tree that brightened my room through the holidays, to the ladies for the beautiful prayer shawl that has brought me so much comfort, and to Gloria Bynum for all the goodies she brought to satisfy my sweet tooth.

Again, thank all of you so much for loving on me while I was recovering.

Cissy Burks

Dear OGC Family,

Mike and I are so blessed to be a part of Oak Grove Church. Thanks so much for all the support for our cancer fight. We feel all the love and prayers everyday.

Thank you!

Thanks, also, for all the cards, calls, visits, flowers, balloons, goodie baskets, and meals. OGC is our happy place! We love all of you so much!

Mike and Susan McQueen



Anniversaries

2 Jackie/Lisa Shelton

9 Bud/Kay West

25 Hoppy/Pat Bennett

13 Elizabeth Lucas

Jones

Mary Lou Powell

15 Matt Lamar

Rayleigh Shelton

20 Dean Smith

21 Jim Ratliff

22 Tommy Thomas

24 Doug Lambeth

25 Emery Burch

Molly Entrekin

27 Esther Attkisson

28 Susie Barefield

Birthdays

1 Becky Shelton

6 Caroline Burnett

7 Andrew Lott

16 Jonah Mathias

17 M.J. Cain

18 Laura Baird

19 Isla McDaniel

Please contact the church office to add an anniversary or birthday!

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