

August 2024



OAK GROVE CHURCH  
A Global Methodist Church

# The Old Is New News

KEEPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTED AND INFORMED.

## ..... A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR .....

*“I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:1-6)*

Christian witness is such an important part of who we are as Christians. The apostle Paul virtually begs the Ephesians (and by association us) to live lives worthy of their calling. Why do you think Paul believes this is a necessity to the Christian life so strongly that he would stoop to groveling? Basically, it's because the very integrity of the Gospel depends on it. Our calling to love God and His creation with holy love by bringing the Gospel message to the entire world in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is grounded almost entirely upon the extent to which believers, as bringers of the message, are living worthily into their calling.

Which begs the question all of us ought to be asking ourselves as followers of Jesus Christ: “Is my life worthy of the Gospel?” “Is how I see the world, treat people, love people (or not), talk to people, act and react to people; is the way I do those things worthy of the Gospel Jesus literally died to bring us?” One of the simple truths of the Gospel is that if you claim Jesus Christ as your Lord and are expectant of the Salvation promised by God, then God expects you to live your life in a way that is worthy of that gift. This is what Paul's plea to the Ephesians and to us is all about. Notice that Paul wasn't making this plea to unbelievers or even new believers. His letter is meant for the Church; folks who were already Firm Believers in Jesus. And yet, even though they were already firm believers, Paul was begging them to live in ways they ought to already be living. My point? Even those of us who already think of ourselves as strong Christians, need to subject ourselves to hearing and rehearing the Gospel message to help keep us on the right path.

Friends, the Body of Christ is made up of a diverse people. We live different lives in different neighborhoods, with different friends and different social networks. We are rich and poor in material things, black, white, red, and brown in the color of these earthly vessels we inhabit. We think differently, act differently, express ourselves differently. We are introverts and extroverts, high energy and low energy, calm leaders and excited followers. We are fallen, and broken, and jaded, and worn out by life. We are Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Anglican, Catholic, Pentecostal, non-denominational, and more. We are varied and sundried in ways I can't even begin to imagine, much less properly express in this short message.

The bottom line is this: each of us is called to represent the body of Christ to the world around us every day, heck every minute of every day. I suspect most of us struggle to do that on a consistent basis, much less as part of our constant walk with Christ. That's why I am so persistent about getting back to the basics of our Wesleyan roots. They are what will help us become relevant as the Church in a world where spiritual warfare is rampant and growing by leaps and bounds. Let's all try to be more diligent about practicing the means of grace and being the people God wants us to be for the world around us. Let's strive to be a people who worthily represent the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven and thus enticing whole new generations to get to know Jesus Christ.

“I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship, and the whole world for my mission field.” – John Wesley

# ..... YOUTH .....



On behalf of myself and the youth I would like to thank everyone who helped us have a fun and exciting summer from hosting us at your home (Findley's and Carpenter's) to those that provided food (Taylor and Candice Entrekin) and helped chaperone the youth fun day

outings (Candice, Hagan, Taylor, and Jay). Words cannot express the gratitude that I have to have such wonderful loving support from our church family. I want to also thank all the people that helped with preparing for the youth trip and the chaperones that went on the youth trip to M28 at Lake Junaluska. It was a life



changing trip for the youth that attended. We had two that gave their lives over to Christ, one that was Baptized in Lake Junaluska, and one that answered the calling to go into ministry. The youth have grown closer as a group and in relationship with Christ and that is due to the wonderful love that Oak Grove church has poured on them.



Thank you to those that helped with the End of Summer Celebration/Back to School Celebration. It was a fun time filled with great music, fun, and fellowship. Thank you to those that helped set up and clean up. Thank you to those that brought food to share. A Special thanks to Mr.

Dempsey for helping with the waterslides and Hoppy for being our awesome DJ.

Thank you to all those that entered the ice cream Church-off. The winner of the Golden Ice Cream Scoop was Mr. Frank Morton with his homemade Peach Ice Cream!

Thank you again for demonstrating to the youth how we love, encourage, and help one another. "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Sincerely,  
April Brewer

Youth Dates for August:

- 4: 5:30-7:00 pm Bible Study/Meeting
- 11: 11 am Youth Leadership Team Mtg
- 11: 5:30-7:00 pm Bible Study/Meeting
- 14: 5:30-7:30 pm Wednesday Night Resumes
- 18: 5:30-7:00 pm Bible Study/Meeting
- 21: 5:30-7:30 pm Dinner & Bible Study
- 25: 5:30-7:00 pm Bible Study/Meeting
- 28: 5:30-7:30 pm Dinner & Bible Study



# .. IN THE KNOW ..

## PRAYER AND COMMUNION

Join Pastor Ted each Wednesday at 12 noon in the sanctuary for Holy Communion and a time of prayer for our church, our community and our nation.

## FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFAST

On the first Sunday in August, August 4, the Men's Club invites you to a complimentary breakfast in the Family Life Center from 8 am until 9:45 am. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by the men and share some early morning fellowship before Sunday School and Worship.

## MEN'S CLUB

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

## SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training equips staff members and volunteers to understand the facts and misconceptions related to child sexual abuse. We will have this training and it is open to anyone, but is a must for those who work in any capacity with our children and youth. It can be done at home with a link emailed to you, or we will have a training session on Wednesday, August 7 at 6 pm in the FLC. Links for this training will be sent out on Wednesday, July 31. If you do not receive a link, please contact Gloria in the church office.

## NURSING HOME VISITATION

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

## MES CIRCLE

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



*Wednesday Night  
Meal & Activities  
Resume August 14*

**Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal  
5:30-6:15 pm**

**Adults: \$7 Children: \$3 Family Plan: \$20**

**August 14**

**Menu:** Hamburger Steak w/Onions & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Assorted Desserts

**Children's Menu:** Hamburgers/Tater Tots

**Shoppers:** Laura Baird/Peggy Woodruff

**Class to Serve:** Young at Heart

**Desserts:** Nancy Amacker, Esther Attkisson, Beth Bankston, Pat Bennett, Jane Boudreaux, Trista Boudreaux

**August 21**

**Menu:** Chicken Spaghetti, Broccoli, Garden Salad, Texas Toast, Assorted Desserts

**Children's Menu:** Pizza and Salad

**Shoppers:** Fred/Jane Boudreaux

**Class to Serve:** Young at Heart

**Desserts:** April Brewer, Judy Brown, Peggy Bullion, Tommy Burks, Gloria Bynum, Suzell Cain

**August 28**

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

**Children's Menu:** Fish Sticks/FF

**Shoppers:** Kaycee Hairston/Lori Terrill

**Class to Serve:** Young at Heart

**Desserts:** M.J. Cain, Felecia Carpenter, Chris Camacho, Mary Ann Cox, Grace Dickerson, Noel Dickerson



**Welcome New Members!**

Rodger Banes, April Brewer, Gabby Brewer, Chris Camacho, B.J. Evans, Larry and Gloria Harms, Sharon Jones, Sara Madaris, Raymond and Gloria Watkins

**..... CHILDREN .....**

I have some exciting news to share with you! First, thank you for helping support our fundraising efforts for the playground renovation. Because of your generosity, we raised \$6,659 on the money challenge wall. When added to what we had already raised, that gives us a total of \$34,074 which is enough to start the new playground project! It will take some time to reach completion, but I am hopeful that we can get started on it before too much longer.

Also, I am super excited to announce that we will begin a Children's Choir starting September 8! We will meet on Sundays from 5:30-6:30 with a light meal being served. Rodger Banes will be leading our 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade choir and Cindy Smith will be assisting with the pre-school choir. They will be learning all kinds of fun musical things such as music for the Christmas program and learning to ring handbells. Be sure to have your kids invite their friends and neighbors to join our new children's choirs and come help make a joyful

noise!

I hope to see all the kids back on Wednesday nights. Many thanks to our teachers, Cindy Oubre, Gloria Watkins, Julie McDonald and Lori Terrill for leading our classes. Also, thanks to Sarah Wilkerson and Ellen Frazier for filling in as our subs when needed.

Now that summer is ending, don't forget to join us for Sunday School. Special thanks to Lori Terrill, Melinda Lucas, Cindy Smith, and Shannon Sterling for taking time to prepare a lesson and teaching our children each week. There are always fun things to be learned about the Bible so don't miss out!

Lots of exciting things are happening this fall at OGC! We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family who loves and supports our kids in so many ways. Please continue to pray for our children and children's ministries!

In His Service,  
Kaycee

**Blessing of the Backpacks**



**Camp Wesley Pines**



## .. CHECK IT OUT ..

### HARMONY AND HEARTSTRINGS

Purvis Methodist Church invites you to *A Purvis Home Companion Harmony and Heartstrings* on Thursday, August 8 or Friday, August 9 at 6:30 pm. There will be music by Purvis Methodist Church Singers with a live band plus guest artists. We have a limited number of tickets available in the church office. You may also get your tickets from Purvis Methodist Church. Tickets are \$15.

**“Growing old is mandatory,  
but growing up is optional.”**

**Walt Disney**



### SENIOR ADULT VBS

Heritage Church is hosting a Senior Adult Vacation Bible School August 20-22 from 8:45 am until noon. Our very own Pastor Ted will be leading a session each day.

Heritage invites you to join them to have fun and hopefully learn something new! Renew old friendships and make new friends! Be a kid again! Each day promises a new adventure, so be prepared for fun, laughter, friendship, & maybe even a little “Who Knew.” Brochures with all of the information are available in the media cubby leading into the sanctuary and on the resources wall leading into the FLC.

thank you



Oak Grove Church,  
We truly appreciate the memorial you gave to Christ Congregational Church in memory of mother. She loved her church and it would have meant so much to her.

With great thanks,  
*Cindy Smith, Hope Nope, Sharon Walker*

Dear Oak Grove Church Family,  
Once again I am so appreciative of your prayers, visits, calls, cards, food and flowers. You have helped me get through some long days of being confined. I am very blessed to be a part of this praying and caring family. I pray God will bless you as you have blessed me.

I love you all.  
In Christian Love,  
*Mary Ann Cox*

Oak Grove Church,  
I want to thank all of you for the prayers and well wishes. I named my plant “Wilson” so when I woke up in the night alone, I would have a friend. I’m glad to be a part of such a loving church family.  
*Danny McDaniel*

anniversaries  
& birthdays



#### Anniversaries

6 Rod/Kathy Courtney  
10 Matt/Ashley Lamar  
18 Lath/Kaycee Hairston  
19 Jimmy/Felecia Carpenter  
22 David/Cindy Oubre

#### Birthdays

2 Chad Cain  
5 Ray Pace  
6 Matthew O’Quinn

7 Tommy Burks  
7 Adelia Powe  
8 Mary Madison Howard  
8 Kim Morgan  
9 Mary Ann Cox  
10 Chris Dickerson  
10 Kim Napier  
11 Gloria Bynum  
11 Drew Standland  
13 Christian Hammond

13 Alan Lucas  
15 Aubrey Shrader  
17 Katherine Shelton  
18 Pat Bennett  
18 Aubrey McDonald  
21 Shelton Lott  
21 Bobo Terrill  
26 Connor Hammond  
29 Susan Farris

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

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