

September 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 .....

*<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>15</sup> If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. (Galatians 5:13-15)*

Can I tell you, it feels like Paul's admonitions to the Galatians were prophetic utterances meant for the Church today. Verse 15 is of particular conviction for me; "If you bite and devour one another." I too often feel like I am biting and devouring way more than I should and have had to do a lot of repenting as a result.

I have always prided myself on the fact that I could go into "enemy territory", have dialogue with people who have different values than I do, and leave not only having grown from the conversation, but confident that the people I had been in conversation with wondering where I stood on things. That's not to say I didn't hold to my convictions, but rather that I was able to have dialogue without feeling a need to get all up in people's faces to make my point. Of course, it never hurt when those folks *wanted* to have an exchange of ideas as well.

Either the world has changed, or I have become less diplomatic than I used to be. I suppose it could be a mixture of the two. Nevertheless, whichever is the case, I have found it increasingly difficult to have an intelligent exchange of ideas with people whose ideologies are different from mine. And while I can admit to being part of the problem, I have to say that the vitriol being thrown around these days is way more aggressive than it was say, five or ten years ago. For my part, I find I am "biting" and getting drawn into the mud more often than I should (which is to say I *never* should) and being put in time out by the Holy Spirit.

The sad part is I know better. I have no illusions that I am going to change people's minds about ideologies and misguided beliefs they have become rabidly obsessed with clinging to, but I allow the goading to draw me in and before I know it, I've said something I regret. At that point all I can hear is James redressing me with his admonition that "If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless." (James 18:21) That became an even louder rebuke as I prepared for my sermon this week, which of course is (by now was) titled, *How to Have Religion that isn't Worthless*.

A little later in his letter to the church at Galatia, Paul implores believers to "...not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." (6:9) And that's the mic drop we all need to pay attention to in these troubled times. Faith tells us we win. God's reign, even when it is challenged by repeated occurrences of paganized societies (Rome, Ottoman, Soviet Union, European Union...now America), and the number of true followers of Jesus contract, the Church never goes away. Over the past 2000 years the one institution still standing is the one that represents the true sovereignty of God on earth made flesh in the person of Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Scriptures tell us that "If we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience," (8:25) and that comes just before my favorite verse in the Bible, "[For] we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (8:28) Let's all try to be more patient, letting our faith inform our attitudes, trusting that everything is going to work out for the good in the end, and loving our neighbor as ourselves. If we do that, we'll have a whole lot less heartburn and a whole lot more peace of mind.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Ted



"We should be rigorous in judging ourselves and gracious in judging others." — John Wesley

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

The youth will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a 6night/7day stay at the beautiful Ten Grand vacation home located in Seagrove, FL. The home has 4bedrooms/3baths, heated pool, is pet friendly, sleeps 10-14, and close to the beach. The tickets are \$10, and the drawing will be at the potluck on September 29, 2024. You do not have to be present to win. All proceeds will go to the youth ministry.

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 IN SEPTEMBER

- 1 Youth Meeting 5:30-7PM
- 4 Dinner 5:30PM  
Youth Meeting 6:30-7:30PM
- 6 Youth Lock Out 6PM-6AM
- 8 Youth Meeting 5:30-7PM  
(Camp Wesley Pines Forms Due)
- 11 Dinner 5:30PM  
Youth Meeting 6:30-7:30PM
- 15 Youth Meeting 5:30-7PM
- 18 Dinner 5:30PM  
Youth Meeting 6:30-7:30PM
- 22 Youth Meeting 5:30-7PM
- 25 Dinner 5:30PM  
Youth Meeting 6:30-7:30PM
- 29 Youth Sunday  
Potluck Lunch

## Oak Grove Church Youth Beach Vacation Raffle



**Drawing September 29th, 2024**

**Tickets \$10  
6 Nights/7 Days**

### Vacation Details

**Name of Home: Ten Grand  
Location: Seagrove Beach, FL  
4 Bed/ 3 Bath Sleeps 10-14  
Heated Pool, close to Beach,  
2-4 parking spots**

*All Proceeds Support OGC Youth Ministry  
More Pictures and a video available upon request*

**Oak Grove Church - 4915 Old Hwy 11—Hattiesburg, MS 39402  
601.264.8850 or youth@ogchurch.life**



## BRO. PAUL

Bro. Paul of Bethany Mission Society in India will be here Friday, September 6 through Sunday, September 8. To give you an opportunity to get to know Bro. Paul on a personal basis, we will have small group gatherings in the homes of some of our church members on Friday, Saturday and Sunday night from 6:30—8:30 pm. Those who have graciously opened their homes for us are Penny Kochtitzky, Friday Night; Larry and Julia Johnson, Saturday Night; and Mary Ann Cox, Sunday Night. To sign up for one of the nights, please contact Tish Edwards at 601-270-3471 or the church office at 601-264-8850.



Welcome New Member!

*Fred Keeter*

## .. 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 September, September 1, 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.

### LABOR DAY

The church office will be closed Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day.

### MEN'S CLUB

All men are invited to Men's Club on Monday, September 9 at 5:30 pm in the Family Life Center.

### NEIGHBORS FEEDING NEIGHBORS

Extra Table, who has provided our Food Pantry with many food items over the years would like for volunteers from OGC to join them Thursday, September 12 from 1-3 pm at University Baptist Church in Hattiesburg for "Neighbors Feeding Neighbors: An Extra Table Meal Packing Party." If you are interested in volunteering, please see Molly Reynolds, OGC Food Pantry Coordinator.

### NURSING HOME VISITATION

Congregational Care will be visiting the area nursing homes on Saturday, September 21. They invite you to join them at the church at 9:30 am to go.

### FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

September 29 is a fifth Sunday, so that means we will have a FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH after worship. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy a time of fellowship with our church family.

### MES CIRCLE

All ladies are invited to MES Circle on Monday, September 30 at 6 pm in the Family Life Center.

## ..... CHILDREN .....

Attention Parents: Children's Choirs will begin Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 6:30. A lite supper will be served. Please encourage your kids to come and invite their friends. Mr. Rodger and Ms. Cindy will be leading. We will work on our Christmas program and other things during this time.

Wednesday night activities are underway. If you haven't been, you are missing a fun time while learning lots of good things about the Bible. The elementary children are following The Trackers of Truth. Be sure to ask them what they have

been studying. Hint: Old Testament and all kinds of things about Moses. Sunday School classes are now meeting in Room 116, downstairs, next door to my office. Hope to see you all each Sunday and Wednesday and don't forget to bring your friends!

As always, please remember to keep our children, children's ministry programs and teachers in your prayers.

In His Service,  
Kaycee

**JOIN THE  
OGC  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR!**

Begins  
Sunday, September 8  
5:30-6:30 pm  
PreK-3 Thru 6th Grades

**Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal**

5:30-6:15 pm

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

**September 4**

**Menu:** Chicken and Wild Rice Casserole, Creamed Corn, Seasoned Green Beans, Garden Salad, Rolls, Assorted Desserts

**Children's Menu:** Chicken Nuggets/FF

**Shoppers:** Nancy Amacker/Pat Bennett/Susan McQueen

**Class to Serve:** Friendship/Young Adult Seekers

**Desserts:** Paula Duren, Tish Edwards, Betty Entrekin, Candice Entrekin, LaNita Fisher, Woody Gammel

**September 11**

**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:** Friendship/Young Adult Seekers

**Desserts:** Kaycee Hairston, Tess Hammond, Laura Hojem, Penny Kochtitzky, Melinda Lucas, B.J. Mathias

**September 18**

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

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

**Shoppers:** Fred/Jane Boudreaux

**Class to Serve:** Friendship/Young Adult Seekers

**Desserts:** Julie McDonald, Susan McQueen, Kim Morgan, Dawn Nuss, Jamie O'Quinn, Cindy Oubre

**September 25**

**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:** Friendship/Young Adult Seekers

**Desserts:** Cindy Pace, Judy Parker, Kathryn Phillips, Adelia Powe, Eva Ratliff, Molly Reynolds



Dear Church Family,

Our grandson, Judah Mathias, is in his first semester at the US Merchant Marine Academy.

I know he would very much appreciate your prayers and a message from you as so many of you have played such an important part in his faith journey. I was so blessed to hear that he had signed up for Chapel and is loving worship. He has already begun to grow so much in his faith. The chaplain has become a dear friend and support for Judah as he spends his first time so far from home.

Your prayers will mean so very much to him and the whole family.

Praising God for Judah Lon and for all of you,

*B.J. Mathias*

Judah Lon Mathias, 2028  
Box #895  
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy  
300 Steamboat Road  
Kings Point, New York 11024



**ANNIVERSARIES**

24 Ray & Cindy Pace

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Cindy Aubin  
LaNita Fisher
- 3 Felecia Carpenter  
Brennen Terrill
- 5 Tish Edwards
- 8 Bobby Sterling
- 9 Kay Arnold

10 Audrey Boudreaux

11 Dawn Nuss

12 Isaac Boudreaux

Judy Brown

Paula Duren

15 Janice Armstrong

Perry Arnold

Donna Langford

16 Josh Mathias

17 Larry Bullion

19 Mandy Kelly

21 Olivia Dickerson

Houston Ladner

22 Mac McCormick

Linda McDaniel

Laura Lee Standland

24 Shannon Sterling

29 Mary Farmer

30 Lexie Cain

Chuck Langley

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

Oak Grove Church  
4915 Old Hwy 11 . Hattiesburg . MS . 39402  
Phone: 601-264-8850  
Email: office@ogchurch.life  
Facebook: Oak Grove Church MS  
Web: www.ogchurch.life  
Youtube: Oak Grove Church MS Worship  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8AM-2PM