

# *The Old Is New News*

KEEPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTED AND INFORMED.

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

As I write, Epiphany has passed, the New Year has begun, and many (most?) of us are looking forward to a better year than the one we just left behind. The New Year brings with it excitement and anticipation over perceived opportunities of doing away with the old and ringing in the new. Sometimes the new is replacing old habits, diets, relationships, etc. with fresh approaches to daily routines, perhaps even doing things for the first time ever. Sometimes it's doing things we've done over and over again with expectations that this will be the year we achieve long term success. Always we are hoping for better things when all is said and done.

Resolving to be better, newer, stronger than before sounds great, and it can be great! The problem with that kind of attitude towards the "New Year," however, is that the shininess of new things always wears off. The new car smell fades and we lose our initial excitement as whatever habits we swore off inevitably return, often with more vigor than ever. There are reasons people fail to maintain workout regimens and start eating all the food they previously resolved to quit. The changes we pretended to want are conditional and the results show. They *always* show.

Having said that, it's likely all of us have made changes in our lives that actually lasted for more than a season. We wanted something badly enough that when we implemented whatever changes were needed to reach our goal, we stuck with them until those changes became permanent. Of course, you don't have to wait for the New Year to make changes that will improve your life. Indeed, you shouldn't. The Bible tells us that our lives are but a "mist," here today and gone tomorrow (James 4:14). In other words, our time here on earth is limited. Therefore, instead of nurturing the same old failed "New Year" attitude, we should have a "New Day" attitude towards life where every day is an opportunity for newness and renewal. Scripture tells us that we are called to do away with the "old self," that the old has been crucified with Christ, and we have been raised to new life. (Romans 6:6)

The average life expectancy for men and women in America is around 80 years of age. Some will live longer and some shorter (sometimes a lot shorter), thus it is imprudent to assume that tomorrow will always come, giving us the opportunity to make changes to our lives we feel are needed. Don't make the mistake so many are guilty of and wait for some arbitrary time to make needed changes in your life. Some opportunities will only come our way once and it is foolish to waste what little time we have putting off until tomorrow what could and should be done today. The irony is, so often when people "say" they want change, they are really just using the New Year or some other random event or time as an excuse for putting off the work they know needs to be done now in order to live a better life.

Someone once said that growth through change is a reward unto itself, and that's true. But it's also true that giving yourself incentives for making positive changes in your life is not only appropriate, it's biblical. The Apostle Paul encourages us not to be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewal of our minds, that by testing we may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2) Positive affirmations can inspire us to persevere when we have lost our internal motivation. It's ok, even desirable to reward oneself with things of substance for accomplishing small steps towards one's goal. It's also a good idea to make yourself accountable to someone who will push you to keep up the good work. That's one of the main purposes behind small group formation and a big reason why I am pushing for congregation-wide implementation of our brand new small group ministry over the coming year.

The bottom line is change is inevitable, and that's a good thing. Change can also be difficult to manage, and that's ok too. The key is to not give up. God blesses us for steadfast dedication to change and growth as disciples of Jesus Christ. There is no set time of year to seek such growth and change, particularly when that change is focused on helping us and others to be more like Jesus. Don't wait. God wants you to start today, and like you, He's excited about what the future holds. (Zephaniah 3:17)

May your year ahead be blessed and fruit-filled to the glory of Christ our Lord.

Pastor Ted,

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)



## ...IN THE KNOW...

### THE GROVE @ OGC MOMS GROUP

Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MoMS) is a ministry that offers friendship and support to all mothers through praying, faithsharing, wonderful conversations, and support. A MoMS group meets the first Friday of each month at OGC from 9:30-11:00 am. Due to the holidays, MoMS will meet Friday, January 10. Childcare will be provided. For more information, contact Tish Edwards or April Brewer.

### NURSING HOME VISITATION

Congregational Care will be visiting the area nursing homes on Saturday, January 18. They invite you to join them at the church at 9:30 am to go.

### ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Administrative Council will meet Sunday, January 19 at 11 am.

### COAT DRIVE

Cold weather is here and more coats are needed to give to our neighbors who come to the Food Pantry. Bring any size new or gently used coat to the FLC. Thank you for your generosity.

### MES CIRCLE

All ladies are invited to MES Circle on Monday, January 27 at 6 pm in the Family Life Center.

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Donnie & April Brewer Barksdale
- 23 Jamie & Carol Standland
- 29 Troy & Judy Parker

### BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Meredith Lucas Parker
- 6 Valerie Fine  
Jack Howard
- 7 Kaycee Hairston  
Rich Nuss  
Jackie Shelton
- 9 Grace Dickerson
- 11 Gabriel Barber
- 15 Henry Stokes
- 18 Madeleine Dickerson
- 19 Shane Napier
- 20 Jason Burger  
Susan McQueen
- 21 Jack Shelton
- 22 Billy McDonald
- 23 Emma Hammond
- 24 Craig Boudreaux
- 25 Anne Claire Adams  
B.J. Evans
- 26 Lucy Mathias  
Lisa Shelton
- 30 Josh Hammond
- 31 RaDonna Frazier



### THANK YOU

\*Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful basket of flowers that you sent to my mother's funeral. All the calls, texts and cards were greatly appreciated.

Moma loved this church, especially singing in the choir. We are so grateful how you took her in and made her feel so loved from the first day she moved to Hattiesburg. She always looked forward to your visits when she moved to Brookdale and later to Windham House.

We are so thankful to this loving church family.

Love Always,

*Kaycee, Lath and all the Alice Cooper family*

\*Dear Oak Grove Church Family,

Thank you so much for your contribution in Charlie's memory.

Thank you for your prayers—they are much needed and definitely felt!

I also want to thank the ladies of the church (and Mike!) for hosting a delicious meal after the funeral. That took so much stress off of me and everyone enjoyed the gracious hospitality.

Charlie loved his church family, as do I. Since his death, I have been out of town or sick, but I look forward to worshiping with you again soon.

Love in Christ,

*Sarah Fulmar*

P.S. Rev. Fine really outdid himself at Charlie's service! Everyone was touched by his words. It was just perfect.

\*OGC Family,

Thank you for your generosity at Christmas. The Christmas bonus was a nice surprise and very much appreciated. Also, thank you to the MES Circle and the Men's Club for giving us a night out together as a staff. We enjoyed our time together and the meal was delicious.

*Ted, Jamie, Alison, Kaycee, April, Eva, and Gloria*

\*Oak Grove Church Family,

I want to thank everyone in the church on behalf of Valerie and myself for your kindness and generosity to us, not just at Christmas with the plentiful bonus to me and the rest of the staff, but for your loving care and awesome presence throughout the year as well. You are appreciated and we are grateful beyond words to be a part of this church family.

*Rev. Ted*



Cancer Companions (CC) is a brand new support group to OGC tailored specifically for cancer patients and their caregivers. CC will begin meeting twice a month on the second and fourth Fridays at 10:30 am beginning in February 2025. If you know someone suffering from this awful disease (and we all do), be sure and pass the word to join us.

## ...YOUTH...

### JANUARY

12	5:30-7 pm:	Youth
15	5:30 pm:	Dinner and Youth
19	5:30-7 pm:	Youth and Confirmation
22	5:30 pm:	Dinner and Youth
26	5:00 pm:	Parent, Youth, and Youth Leadership Team Meeting
29	5:30 pm:	Dinner and Youth

## ...CHILDREN...

Happy New Year and Blessings for 2025! I am praying that this year will be a banner year for our Children's Ministry. With that being said, I need to have a **very important** Children's Council and Parent Meeting on Sunday, January 19 at 4 pm. Everyone on the council and all parents/teachers/volunteers are strongly encouraged to attend. We have lots to discuss as we move forward into 2025.

Playground update: I am looking forward to having our new playground soon! I just received word that it is in route and should be installed within the couple of weeks.

It is time to start thinking about Camp Wesley Pines! Early Bird Registration Deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Early Elementary (finishing grades 1 – 2) is \$190.00 after March 15, \$240.00 per person. Older Elementary (finishing grades 2-5) is \$410.00 after March 15, \$460.00 per person. Go to [wesleypines.com](http://wesleypines.com) for possible dates and more information.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who assisted with the children's Christmas program, especially, Rodger Banes and Cindy Smith. The children were fantastic and I can't say enough about how proud I am of them. They worked so hard learning their lines and music. I am sorry if you missed it because they did an outstanding job!

Please be in prayer for our children and Children's Ministry during 2025!

In His Service,  
Kaycee



## PRINCESS BALL

MES Circle is sponsoring a Princess Ball for young ladies ages 2-16 on Saturday, February 8 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 4 from one of the MES ladies or in the church office.

**Princess Ball**  
Saturday, February 8, 2025  
6:00-8:00 pm

Tickets \$15  
\$5 for additional young lady in family  
Ages 2-16  
Young lady may be escorted by father, grandfather, uncle or special friend  
Tickets available until February 4

**Oak Grove Church**  
4915 Old Hwy 11

## VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON

The Men's Club is hosting a Valentine's Day Luncheon for Widows, Widowers, Divorcees, Never Marrieds and Singles on Friday, 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!

Oak Grove Church Men's Club  
cordially invites you to a

**VALENTINE'S DAY  
LUNCHEON**

Friday, February 14  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Family Life Center

rsvp: church office  
601-264-8850 or [office@ogchurch.life](mailto:office@ogchurch.life)

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL AND ACTIVITIES RESUME JANUARY 15!**  
**MEAL 5:30 PM / ADULTS \$7 CHILDREN \$3 FAMILY PLAN \$20 / CLASSES AND CHOIR 6:30 PM**

**January 15**

**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:** Jane Boudreaux, Trista Boudreaux, April Brewer, Judy Brown, Peggy Bullion, JoAnn Burks

**January 22**

**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:** Gloria Bynum, Suzell Cain, M.J. Cain, Felecia Carpenter, Chris Camacho, Mary Ann Cox

**January 29**

**Menu:** Beef Tips w/rice, English Peas, Carrots, Garden Salad, Biscuits, Assorted Desserts  
**Children's Menu:** Fish Sticks/FF  
**Shoppers:** Kaycee Hairston/Lori Terrill  
**Class to Serve:** Young at Heart  
**Desserts:** Grace Dickerson, Noel Dickerson, Paula Duren, Tish Edwards, Betty Entrekin, Candice Entrekin

**February 5**

**Menu:** Loaded Baked Potatoes, Chili, Garden Salad, French Bread, Assorted Desserts  
**Children's Menu:** Pizza and Salad  
**Shoppers:** Tish Edwards/Susan McQueen  
**Class to Serve:** Friendship/Young Adult Seekers  
**Desserts:** LaNita Fisher, Kaycee Hairston, Tess Hammond, Laura Hojem, Penny Kochtitzky, Melinda Lucas

**February 12**

**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:** B.J. Mathias, Julie McDonald, Susan McQueen, Kim Morgan, Dawn Nuss, Jamie O'Quinn

**February 19**

**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:** Cindy Oubre, Cindy Pace, Judy Parker, Kathryn Phillips, Adelia Powe, Eva Ratliff

**February 26**

**Menu:** Beef Tips w/rice, English Peas, Carrots, Garden Salad, Biscuits, Assorted Desserts  
**Children's Menu:** Fish Sticks/FF  
**Shoppers:** Kaycee Hairston/Lori Terrill  
**Class to Serve:** Friendship/Young Adult Seekers  
**Desserts:** Molly Reynolds, Heather Richardson, Gayle Shearer, Cindy Smith, Hagan Smith, Carol Standland

**March 5**

**Menu:** Loaded Baked Potatoes, Chili, Garden Salad, French Bread, Assorted Desserts  
**Children's Menu:** Pizza and Salad  
**Shoppers:** Tish Edwards/Susan McQueen  
**Class to Serve:** Youth  
**Desserts:** Shannon Sterling, Lori Terrill, Brenda Walker, Gloria Watkins, Peggy Woodruff, Nancy Amacker

**March 12**

**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:** Youth  
**Desserts:** Esther Attkisson, Beth Bankston, Pat Bennett, Jane Boudreaux, Trista Boudreaux, April Brewer

**March 19**

**Menu:** Chicken Spaghetti, Broccoli, Garden Salad, Texas Toast, Assorted Desserts  
**Children's Menu:** Pizza and Salad  
**Shoppers:** Fred/Jane Boudreaux  
**Class to Serve:** Youth  
**Desserts:** Judy Brown, Peggy Bullion, JoAnn Burks, Gloria Bynum, Suzell Cain, M.J. Cain

**March 26**

**Menu:** Beef Tips w/rice, English Peas, Carrots, Garden Salad, Biscuits, Assorted Desserts  
**Children's Menu:** Fish Sticks/FF  
**Shoppers:** Kaycee Hairston/Lori Terrill  
**Class to Serve:** Youth  
**Desserts:** Felecia Carpenter, Chris Camacho, Mary Ann Cox, Grace Dickerson, Noel Dickerson, Paula Duren

**April 2**

**Menu:** Loaded Baked Potatoes, Chili, Garden Salad, French Bread, Assorted Desserts  
**Children's Menu:** Pizza and Salad  
**Shoppers:** Tish Edwards/Susan McQueen  
**Class to Serve:** Security Team  
**Desserts:** Tish Edwards, Betty Entrekin, Candice Entrekin, LaNita Fisher, Kaycee Hairston, Tess Hammond

**April 9**

**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:** Security Team  
**Desserts:** Laura Hojem, Penny Kochtitzky, Melinda Lucas, B.J. Mathias, Julie McDonald, Susan McQueen

**April 17 (Maundy Thursday)**

**Menu:** Chicken Spaghetti, Broccoli, Garden Salad, Texas Toast, Assorted Desserts  
**Children's Menu:** Pizza and Salad  
**Shoppers:** Fred/Jane Boudreaux  
**Class to Serve:** Security Team  
**Desserts:** Kim Morgan, Dawn Nuss, Jamie O'Quinn, Cindy Oubre, Cindy Pace, Judy Parker

**April 23**

**Menu:** Beef Tips w/rice, English Peas, Carrots, Garden Salad, Biscuits, Assorted Desserts  
**Children's Menu:** Fish Sticks/FF  
**Shoppers:** Kaycee Hairston/Lori Terrill  
**Class to Serve:** Security Team  
**Desserts:** Kathryn Phillips, Adelia Powe, Eva Ratliff, Molly Reynolds, Heather Richardson, Gayle Shearer

**April 30**

**Menu:** Loaded Baked Potatoes, Chili, Garden Salad, French Bread, Assorted Desserts  
**Children's Menu:** Pizza and Salad  
**Shoppers:** Tish Edwards/Susan McQueen  
**Class to Serve:** Security Team  
**Desserts:** Cindy Smith, Hagan Smith, Carol Standland, Shannon Sterling, Lori Terrill, Brenda Walker

**May 7**

**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:** Gloria Watkins, Peggy Woodruff, Nancy Amacker, Esther Attkisson, Beth Bankston, Pat Bennett

**May 14**

**Menu:** Salute to Seniors Prime Rib Dinner  
**Children's Menu:** Prime Rib or Chicken Nuggets  
**Shoppers:** Fred/Jane Boudreaux  
**Class to Serve:** Young at Heart  
**Desserts:** MES Circle



**Oak Grove Church**

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**Web: [www.ogchurch.life](http://www.ogchurch.life)**

**Youtube: [Oak Grove Church MS Worship](https://www.youtube.com/OakGroveChurchMSWorship)**

**Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8AM-2PM**