

# The Old Is New News

KEEPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTED AND INFORMED.

Wednesday, April 16  
No Fellowship Meal or Activities  
Meal moved to  
Thursday, April 17 after  
Maundy Thursday Service

## Holy Week Worship Services



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

By the time this newsletter is published we will have just crossed the halfway point of our Lenten journey, continuing a slow but steady march towards Holy Week and the Easter celebration. I have only just become aware of an interesting confluence in teachings that was totally unplanned and unforeseen. In fact, the concurrence only happened because of unexpected delays in plans that were made months ago. What is this mysterious convergence? It's the coincidental emergence of the parable of the Prodigal Son in both our *Listen to Him* Lenten sermon series and OGC's confirmation class studies. What are the chances that one story in one chapter of the entire Bible would emerge in two completely separate studies, unplanned and at unawares of any of the planners? I don't even know how you would go about calculating those odds, but I'm thinking the chances are somewhere in the thousands or even millions to one.

Being a person who doesn't believe in coincidence when it comes to matters of spirituality, I'm going to go with this is a God thing and that God is speaking into our community in ways that haven't yet become apparent to me. Y'all know the story of course (and if not, you will by the time this week is over): Young foolish man, disrespects his dad by asking for his inheritance before dad dies, only to go off to an exotic place where he squanders everything. As a result, he ends up destitute and starving with nowhere to turn. Finally, he comes to his senses enough to return to his father's home, intending to beg for mercy and a place in his household as a lowly servant. But then to everyone who was listening to the parable's surprise, instead of rebuking and punishing his son, the father raced out to greet him and embrace him, kissing him as he clothed him in the finest of garments and declared a feast in honor of this son of his who "was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" (15:24)

There's so much hidden treasure in this story that we couldn't possibly cover it here in this newsletter article or my upcoming sermon combined. Even adding in our class time on Wednesdays we could only scratch the surface of meaning underlying this parable. But there's a little jewel most folks aren't aware of that would actually have been very noteworthy to first century denizens. And that's how the father raced out to meet his son. To run in that culture was to shame oneself. And yet, the father ran to greet his son. Why? Probably to get to the son before he arrived in the community where he would most certainly have been welcomed with humiliating taunts and rejection. In other words, dad wanted to show the community he forgave his son as an example to them of how they should be forgiving as well.

I generally teach the parable of the Prodigal Son from the perspective of either the son, the father, or the jealous brother who can't understand why his father was not just forgiving, but celebratory over his brother's return. As I'm writing this article, it's making me wonder if there isn't a message our church community in particular needs to hear. We are, after all, such a loving, kind, and giving congregation, especially towards fallen individuals whom we didn't know before they fell; as is apparent in our very generous food pantry and meals on wheels ministries. But what about people we do know who've gone by the wayside, or even wronged us personally? Are we as forgiving of them as the father of the prodigal son demonstrates for us?

I don't know who (if anyone) might need to hear this side of the Prodigal Son, but God laid it on my heart to put it out there, and since I don't believe in coincidence, I will be praying that whoever might need to hear it, hears it with the love and compassion it's meant to project. God's love and forgiveness came at a price, not the least of which was humbling His Son on the cross. How much humility and grace did that act of compassion and love purchase for you (from you)?

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Ted

## ...IN THE KNOW...

### FIFTH SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

Sunday, March 30 is a fifth Sunday. Join us after worship in the FLC for a delicious potluck lunch and fellowship. Bring your favorite dish to share.

### 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 (April 4) at OGC from 9:30-11:00 am. Childcare is provided. For more information, contact Tish Edwards or April Brewer.

### REFRESH CAREGIVER'S CONFERENCE

REFRESH Caregiver's Conference is Saturday, April 5 from 8:30 am until 3:30 pm at Temple Baptist Church. This conference is a single day event for individuals involved in providing significant support to a family member or friend. REFRESH is an opportunity to join others with similar challenges to find up-to-date

medical information, access to community resources, faith-based encouragement, and mental and emotional coping skills for resilience. Breakout sessions are focused on three areas: senior/dementia support, special needs, and long-term illness/disability care. A resource fair will allow registrants to learn more about medical, community, and church resources available to support caregivers in facing care-related challenges with practical tools, community support, and renewed hope. Our OGC Cancer Companions Group will have a table at the resource fair. Tickets are \$15 and are available on the Refresh Caregiver's Conference Facebook Event Page. Contact Valerie Fine for more information.

### FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The Men's Club invites you to a complimentary breakfast the first Sunday of each month from 8-9:45 am in the Family Life Center. April 6 is the first Sunday, so come enjoy a delicious breakfast and fellowship before Sunday School and Worship.

### MEN'S CLUB

All men are invited to Men's Club on Monday, April 7 at 5:30 pm in the Family Life Center.

### CANCER COMPANIONS

Cancer Companions (CC) is a support group at OGC tailored specifically for cancer patients and their caregivers. CC will meet twice a month on the second and fourth Friday at 10:30 am. In April we will meet April 11 and 25. If you know someone suffering from this awful disease, be sure and pass the word to join us.

### NURSING HOME VISITATION

Congregational Care will be visiting the area nursing homes on Saturday, April 19. 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, April 28 at 6 pm in the Family Life Center.

## OGC Has Talent?? Talent Show



## ...CHILDREN...

A great BIG Thank You to all who participated in the OGC Has Talent?? Talent Show! It was SO much fun and all of you talented people made it a huge success! Many, many thanks to all of you who donated money for our kids to go to Camp Wesley Pines. We raised a whopping \$4,707.15 and we have 7 children registered for camp thanks to your generosity.

Mark your calendars for the next 3 upcoming events.

Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> will be Children's Sabbath. Our kids will be leading the worship alongside Pastor Ted, Jamie and Alison. It will be a wonderful day to come and worship!

On Palm Sunday we will have our annual Palm Parade with the children during worship that morning. Please have your children in the hall by the FLC at 9:45 to receive their palms and get ready to parade!

April 13<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday) Take notice that we will NOT have our annual Easter Eggstravaganza. We are going to mix it up a little

bit this year. Instead, we will host an Epic Easter Trivia Show! The event is geared toward children but all are invited to join the fun. It will begin at 4:00 p.m. Bring your favorite finger foods to share and get ready to kick off Holy Week with a special event to help us learn more about the events that led up to Easter. We will close with an Easter Egg Hunt for our children so kids, don't forget to bring your Easter Baskets!

VBS is just around the corner. Join us as we begin to prepare for Wonder Junction, where we marvel at Jesus and live for his glory. I ask that each one of us begin praying for our Vacation Bible School now. This year we will gallop through the wonder-filled West, where our children will learn about the greatest wonder of them all – Jesus Christ. So, grab your bandanas, dust off your boots, and get ready for a grand old time in the Wild West! Please see me to get signed up to help. I promise we will have a routin' tootin' good time!

In His Service,  
*Kaycee*

**Oak Grove Children's Ministry**

*the* **EPIC**

**EASTER TRIVIA**

*Show*

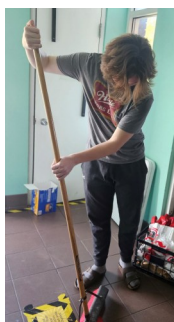
**SUNDAY, APRIL 13 @ 4 PM**

EGG HUNT

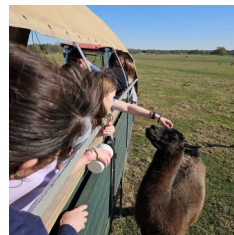
Join us for a fun filled afternoon for all ages!  
Bring your favorite finger food to share!

## ...YOUTH... SPRING BREAK FUN AND MISSIONS

### USM WESLEY FOUNDATION



### GLOBAL WILDLIFE



### WORTHY STABLES



OGC Family,

April 23rd is Secretary Appreciation Day. Please let Gloria Watkins, who has served us faithfully since 2008, know how much she is loved and appreciated at OGC.

Thank you,

Julie McDonald, SPRC Chair

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

**MEAL 5:30 PM**

**ADULTS \$7 CHILDREN \$3 FAMILY PLAN \$20**

**CLASSES AND CHOIR 6:30 PM**



**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 (After Maundy Thursday Service)**

**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

**ANNIVERSARIES**

17 Shane & Kim Napier

27 Jamie & Leigh Shelton

29 Bobo & Lori Terrill

8 Katelyn O'Quinn

8 Whitney Shelton Bell

9 April Boudreaux

10 Bob Attkisson

10 Jasmine Brewer

11 Hagan Barber Smith

13 Rod Courtney

14 Nancy Amacker

17 Addison Lamar

17 Lindsey McDaniel

20 Bus Cook

21 Owen Dickerson

23 Emma McDonald

23 Jordan Wesley

24 April Brewer

29 Taylor Standland

30 Julia Johnson

**BIRTHDAYS**

2 Emma Entrekin

6 Julie McDonald

7 Jacob Holmes

*Thank You!*

Dear Oak Grove Church Family,

The outpouring of love, prayer, concern, food and well wishes that you have shown me during my recent illness has been amazing.

I have always thought that OGC is a family. The last month has only confirmed my opinion. Thanks for everything you have shown us.

In His Name,

*Dempsey Amacker*

To the faithful members of Oak Grove Church,  
Greetings from Camp Wesley Pines!

We are so grateful for your recent gift to CWP. Your generosity means the world to us, and we give thanks for your faithfulness. Your gift is helping us in our mission to lead children and youth to following Jesus.

We simply cannot do that without your continued support. We look forward to continuing to serve your church and families.

Thank you, again!

Peace,

*Chap Fenwick, CWP Executive Director*

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8AM-2PM