



The Old Is New News

KEEPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTED AND INFORMED.

A Word from our Pastor

In 2005 at the height of ongoing military conflict between the government of the African nation of Uganda and a brutal rebel force calling themselves the LRA (Lord's Resistance Army), something truly miraculous happened. After an unprecedented period of forcible internment for 2 million people and horrendous conditions one wouldn't wish on their vilest enemy, the Lord prompted a newly formed group of missionaries to organize a gathering in the local War Memorial Stadium. The original goal was to unify the tribes, leaders, churches, and regions in Uganda in repentant prayer for the ending of the war. Planning for a 77 hour prayer meeting, 11 hours a day for 7 days in December 2005, radio stations were contacted, and word began to spread like wildfire. The day finally approached and over 1,000 people, including political leaders, gathered inside this humble stadium to join in intense, radical, united prayer.

As a result, the war stopped, and many significant stories of major transformation followed. Pastors reported that they sensed heaven opening in a new way. Government officials called and testified of a strong sense that the spiritual climate over the area had changed. Miracles were occurring regularly in local churches. It even led to the inauguration of January as the national month of prayer in Uganda.

Some time later, the rebel leader's right-hand general converted to Christianity and attended New Life Bible College. When he learned of the prayer gathering that was held at the War Memorial Stadium and the specific time it happened, he testified that it was at the same time that the rebel leader had told him the demons who gave him power over the land had left him!

This is a true story. It is not embellished or added to or detracted from, nor is it ancient biblical lore or even ancient modern lore. It is an ongoing story of the power of God loosed on the world as a direct result of faithful believers joining together in corporate prayer. In fact, I am hoping to have a friend of mine who is now a representative of the group who sponsored this event come to OGC and share more about their experiences with prayer as a central element of their missionary ministry.

Why am I sharing all this with you today? The short answer is that everyone who knows me knows I consider prayer, whether it's individual or corporate, to be an essential part of the church, both locally and across the Body of Christ. James, the brother of Jesus, says that once we have confessed our sins before God we are to "pray for one another, that you may be healed," because, "the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." (5:16) The Apostle Paul suggests that we should "pray without ceasing," (1 Thessalonians 5:17) And Jesus Himself said that "whatever you ask in prayer, believe you have received it, and it will be yours." (Mark 11:24)

This newsletter article is way too short to talk about all the ifs, ands, and buts associated with questions of answered and unanswered prayer, nor is that in any way my goal. My ultimate aim is to convince the good people of OGC of, 1) the absolute necessity for an effective church to be steeped in faithful prayer, and 2) to see more people willing to take part in a vital, growing prayer ministry in our midst.

We have a mighty and faithful core of individuals already taking part in weekly prayer for this church and community, and I am grateful for their dedication. However, God has laid it on my heart that it's not enough. So, you will hear me advocating for more as time goes by because I want to see miracles happening in our church and beyond as a direct result of growing faithfulness and commitment to prayer. Miracles of healing. Miracles of changed hearts. Miracles of transformation. All these things are not only possible, but I will contend more and more likely as we offer ourselves more and more to widespread commitment to praying for such things. That's my goal and I invite you all to be in prayer about all this over the coming weeks and months.

"And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us." 1 John 5:14

Grace and peace,
Pastor Ted

In The Know

FRIENDS OF WESLEY

The 37th Annual Friends of Wesley Chili Cook –Off and Silent Auction is Thursday, May 1 from 5:30-7:00 pm at Parkway Heights UMC. Tickets are \$10 at the door. The beloved event brings together alumni, supporters, and friends of Hub City Wesley to celebrate and support our ministry at USM, Jones College, and PRCC.

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 (May 2) at OGC from 9:30-11:00 am. Childcare is provided. For more information, contact Tish Edwards or April Brewer.

MEN'S CLUB

All men are invited to Men's Club on Monday, May 5 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 May we will meet May 9 and 23. If you know someone suffering from this awful disease, be sure and pass the word to join us.

SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The Men's Club is cooking breakfast on May 11 for Second Sunday Breakfast. Come to the FLC from 8–9:45 am for a delicious breakfast and some great fellowship before Sunday School and

Worship. Notice this breakfast is now on the SECOND Sunday of each month.

NURSING HOME VISITATION

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

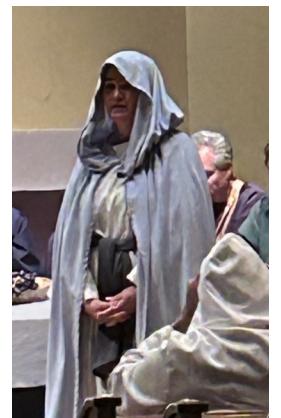
MES CIRCLE

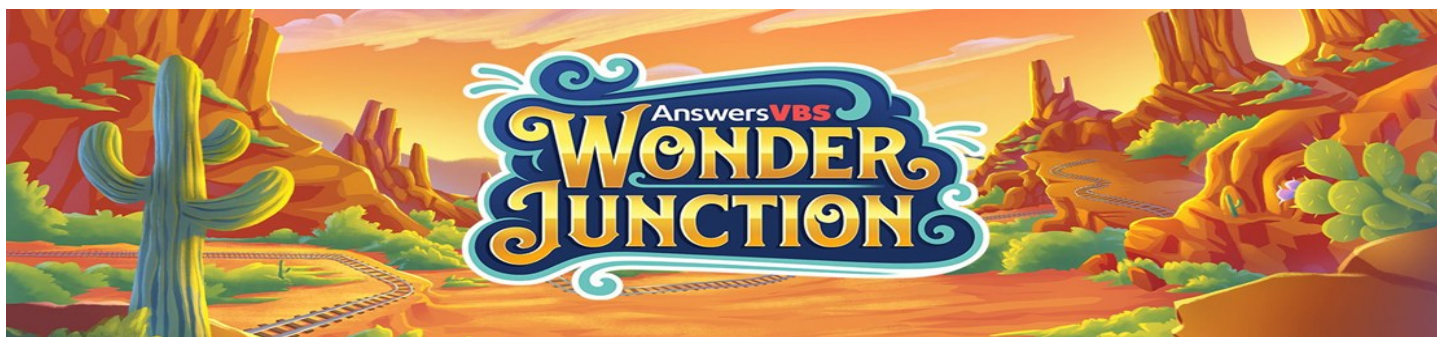
All ladies are invited to MES Circle on Monday, May 19 at 6 pm in the Family Life Center.

MEMORIAL DAY

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

Holy Week





Children

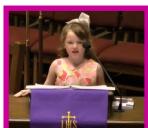
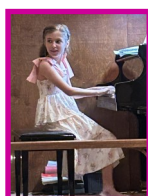
Yee-Haw! It is getting close to VBS time and I am looking for volunteers. Our church always has the best volunteers and I am sure this year will be no different. I think we all know the value of Vacation Bible School but just in case you need a little tug at the heart please consider this...

*VBS provides a safe place for kids to learn about Jesus and the Bible. So many kids today are unchurched and this may be the only time they hear about Jesus. This year's theme is all about Jesus's life, from the beginning to today! I can't think of a better way to serve our Lord than being a small part in teaching and sharing the love of Jesus with children and hopefully, planting seeds that will lead a child to Christ that will last throughout eternity! We may never know the impact of VBS until we walk the streets of heaven ourselves. But I truly believe VBS makes a difference, which is why I am asking for everyone to pray for our VBS every day and let me know I can plug you in!

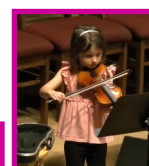
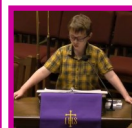
*Some of you may wonder why we go to so much trouble transforming our church into a VBS wonderland. Well, mainly because we don't want children to think that church and the Bible is boring. The Bible is the most exciting book there is and we need to present it in a fun way to hopefully get the kids hooked for life. (sidenote: Last year 2 children asked us if we could give them a Bible because they didn't have one at home. I was so happy to give those Bibles away!) I think it is well worth the time and effort if children are asking for Bibles to take home! However, it takes the whole OGC village to pull this off so let me know how I can plug you in! I believe VBS is our biggest mission of this church. So, dust off your boots, saddle up and let's get these buckaroos excited about Jesus! And let me know how I can plug you in!

Wednesday, May 14th we will have a VBS Jamboree End of the Year Party following dinner. Mark your calendars for your kids to be there and let's get this party going!

In His Service,
Kaycee



Children's Sabbath



Youth

BACCALAUREATE

OGC will honor our Graduates at a Baccalaureate Service on Sunday, May 18. Graduates and their families will be served breakfast at 9 am in the FLC before the service. Also, our Graduates will be honored on Wednesday, May 14 at 5:30 pm at the last Fellowship Meal until fall. Please let the church office know if you have a graduating high school Senior so we can get the needed information to them. Also, we would like to recognize our college graduates in the Baccalaureate Service, so please let the church office know if you have a college graduate this year.

DESSERT AUCTION

The Youth Ministry Annual Dessert Auction is Sunday, June 1 from 11am until 1 pm. Join us for a delicious meal, then get ready for some fun as we auction off the delicious desserts. If you would like to donate a dessert, please contact April.



Youth Ministry Annual

DESSERT

Auction

Sunday, June 1

11 am - 1 pm

Enjoy the *fun*

Enjoy the *food*



Thank you

Dear Oak Grove Church Family,

There are no words to express the love I feel from you all. Everyone has done something that has been such a blessing to me and to Ted. I do not seem to be able to keep up with all the thank you notes that I should have been writing, but please know that I have appreciated every single gesture. God has truly blessed us with a loving and caring church family. I cherish your prayers as I begin this next trek into treatment.

I love you,
Valerie and Ted

Dear Oak Grove Church Family,

Thank you all so much for the contribution you made to Asbury Hospice House. It is such a wonderful facility, and Bud received excellent care there.

Your thoughtfulness and prayers have meant so much to me and to all the family in this dark time.

Love you all,
Kay West

Dear OGC Family,

Thank you for all the prayers, thoughts, and food during this difficult time of treatment. I am getting stronger every day, and I appreciate your concern for me and my family.

Thank you for being there for us.

David and Beth Bankston

Oak Grove Church,

I appreciate all the prayers that you have sent to me and my family. I love you all and miss you very much!

I am doing much better! Thanks be to all of God's people.

Susie Barefield

Oak Grove Church,

Thank you for your loving kindness shown to me during this difficult time of losing my loved ones. You are truly a special group of people.

Juanita Young and family (Cooks on Wednesday Night)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

MEAL 5:30 PM

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

CLASSES AND CHOIR 6:30 PM

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

Servers: Laura Baird, Molly Reynolds, Brenda Walker

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

May 14

Menu: Salute to Seniors Dinner: Brisket, Hash Brown Casserole, Broccoli, Garden Salad, Rolls, Cake and Ice Cream

Children's Menu: Brisket or Chicken Nuggets

Shoppers: Fred/Jane Boudreaux

Servers: Julie McDonald, Adelia Powe, Kathy Neese

Desserts: MES Circle

May 14 is the last
Wednesday Night Meal until fall.

May Anniversaries and Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES

3 Chuck & Jenny Langley
4 Ted & Valerie Fine
9 Tyler & Taylor Standland
18 Bill & Julie Custer
18 Raymond & Gloria Watkins
22 Bobby & Shannon Sterling
23 Brian & Jessie Holmes
25 John & LaNita Fisher
29 Taylor & Candice Entrekin

BIRTHDAYS

2 Christi Busha
2 Mike McQueen
3 Fred Keeter

6 Sarah Wilkerson
7 Andrew Kelly
9 Sharon Jones
12 Lina Fortenberry
12 Alison Post
12 Gloria Watkins
13 Molly Reynolds
14 Larry Harms
15 William Wilkerson
19 Beth Bankston
20 Garrett Dickerson
20 Taylor Entrekin
22 Paige Smith
23 Jonathan Wilkerson

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