



Oak Grove United Methodist Church
6440 OLD STATESVILLE ROAD
CHARLOTTE NC 28269-1782

MAY 2012

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday School - 9:30AM
Worship - 10:30AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Phone & Fax Number - 704-596-4084

Web Address - www.oakgroveumc.net

E-mail - office@oakgroveumc.net
pastor@oakgroveumc.net



Hear Oak Grove Sermons on the Web
Now you can listen to Pastor Bob's sermons from the church's web site at www.oakgroveumc.net. It's a great option if you ever miss Sunday worship, want to listen again, or want to recommend Oak Grove to a friend. Check it out!



MAY 2012

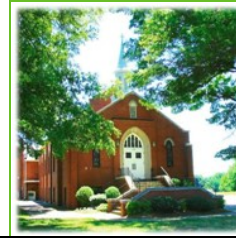
The monthly newsletter of Oak Grove United Methodist Church



The Oak Grove
Breeter

PERMIT NO. 210
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
CHARLOTTE NC 28269-1782

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The Oak Grove
Breeter

MAY 2012

IDEAS FOR Including people in a community of belonging AT OAK GROVE UMC

*Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor...
Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Romans 12.10, 14*

The key to including people in a church community is letting them know they are welcomed, wanted, and valued. We make people feel they belong not merely by what we say but also by the way we present our church and its ministries. Here are just a few ideas to enhance our inclusiveness. And remember, it is equally important to include long-time members of our church as well as newcomers.

- **Advertise** events, meetings, projects, activities as much as possible. Use newsletter, bulletin, email, facebook, twitter, newspaper, the Derita Reporter. Be mindful of the ways your target audience gets their information.
- **Promote functions in advance** to help participants plan and make room in their schedules.
- **Be sensitive to time-of-day, day-of-week, childcare considerations** for professionals, students, seniors, children, parents. Make attending as convenient as possible.
- **Think outside the "inner circle"**. Remember to provide information as if everyone were new to our church – assume no prior knowledge of the ways we've "always done it before". Events that truly are "open to everyone" should be communicated to everyone and not only your circle of friends or family.
- **Follow through with events as advertized:**
 - **Start on time, neither early or late.** People try hard to attend our events, because they want to participate. If a meeting begins earlier than advertised or the task is finished before they arrive, it makes them feel unwanted and their time dishonored.
 - **Avoid last-minute cancellations.** Remember, some folks may have made special plans to attend our event, or they may be feeling a strong need for our ministry – we can't let them down. Be dependable; make sure someone is in charge of being present, even if you can't.
- **Greet and welcome newcomers; speak with and listen to people you don't know well.** It shows you care about them. If someone is in "your" pew, sit next to them and introduce yourself.



Outdoor enhancements make Oak Grove more inviting

Hanging outdoor banners on our front lawn just got easier. Thanks to Mark Shook for providing a new place to advertize our events on Oak Grove UMC's front lawn. Removable 4 X 4 posts (stored in the church basement) are placed in permanent, below-ground sockets to hang outdoor banners. Posts can be configured for banners up to 8-ft. long, and placed along or facing traffic. Ask Mark or the church office if you need help.

Thanks also to Tom & Eileen Powers for re-landscaping the garden around our marquee sign, with a raise stone border, weeding, and fresh planting. It looks great!

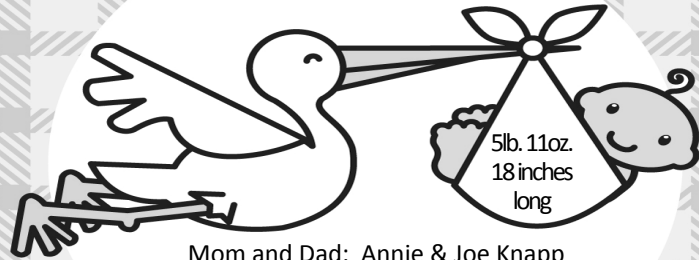
HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!!



Pastor Robert D. Symanski led in songs of praise and words of worship as the people of Oak Grove United Methodist Church gathered around the cross at sunrise on Easter Sunday to honor and praise God for the resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Welcome John Mason Knapp!

Arrived 1:45AM April 3, 2012



Mom and Dad: Annie & Joe Knapp

Grandmother: Rhonda Marshburn

Great Grandmother: JoAnn Walker

Thank You

OAK GROVE WOMEN'S GROUP,

TO THE WOMEN OF OAK GROVE- ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENTS AT RANSON, THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION FOR SCHOOL UNIFORMS. MY ACCOUNT AT FAMOUS MART WAS ALMOST DEPLETED UNTIL YOUR DONATION. I NOW HAVE ENOUGH TO GET ME THROUGH THE YEAR.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF MY STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

YOUR GIFT MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF MY STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

SINCERELY,

PERRY OWEN

THANKS!

We had a good turnout at Oak Groves' annual Easter Egg Hunt and the kids seemed to have a good time. Many thanks to all who donated prizes, brought children, prayed for us, and volunteered to make it a success! A special thanks to our youth and those who donated their time- serving refreshments, playing games, hiding eggs, working on crafts and more.

Youth: Dakota Hylton, Bannah Rankin, & Shelby Rankin

Pat Barker Linda Hylton Marianne Kleban
Stephanie Rankin Cindy Williams



THANK YOU

Thank you to Vickie Whitlow, JoAnn Walker, Sheri Symanski, Pat Stephens, Mike Henderson, Chris Blumberg, and Pat Barker for completing "Invitation to John" - a DISCIPLE Short-Term Study this spring. Their commitment to reading and studying the Scriptures in community with one another helps fulfill Oak Grove UMC's mission of changing lives within our congregation and in our community.

Thank You!

Dear Friends:

On behalf of trustees, staff, and especially the children, thank you for your gift received through the Western North Carolina Conference. I can't begin to express to you what your kindness means to all of us at the Children's Home. It is indeed a blessing to all of us that western North Carolina Methodist Churches continue to sustain the "miracle" that has occurred daily at The Children's Home for over a century.

The support from OGUMC is absolutely vital in our ability to provide what has been missing for so many of our children -stability, encouragement and nurture. *Every child deserves a chance.* With your continued funding we can offer these special children the hope and skills needed to succeed in a better life.

Our children's successes have been made possible with the help of many thoughtful United Methodist friends. We continue to be amazed and blessed by all that you have done over the last century and all that you continue to do for The Children's Home today.

Please keep us in your prayers, as we shall keep you in ours.

Yours truly,

Norma Pearman

Chief Development Officer



April Ruth Fund and FOOD PANTRY

In the month of May, we are especially collecting, breakfast cereal, canned meat, canned fruit, canned vegetables.

In April we have provided food boxes from our pantry for five families in our local community. **A Very Special Thanks to all of you for your help in keeping our pantry stocked!**

MEMORIALS

To General Fund/Budget

In Memory of Chris Talbert
By Mike and Judy Dalton

In Memory of William Brown
By Kay Brown

HONORARIUM

To General Fund/Budget

In Honor of Jared Phillips
By Perry and Kathy Phillips



2012 GRADUATES

We will be recognizing our 2012 High School and College Graduates in June.

Know of anyone graduating this year? Please help us out with a reminder to make sure we are aware.

We like to acknowledge them in the newsletter and will recognize them during the June 3rd worship service.

Please contact Joan, Bob, Laurie, or anyone on the Education committee.

NarrowWay PRODUCTIONS

Just for Mother's Day!

Honor thy mother and let NarrowWay prepare a feast she will remember as this fun-filled variety show pays tribute to motherhood. With real-life kid interviews, hilarious drama and music that thrills the soul, this is a show fit for your queen!

Playing May 10 - 12, 2012
Please call the office at 803-802-2300 for more information visit the website at www.narrowway.net.



WHAT DO APPORTIONMENTS PAY FOR?

This chart gives a *very rough* idea of how every apportionment dollar is allocated. Oak Grove UMC apportionments are distributed among 19 district (Lake Norman), conference (Western NC), and general church (United Methodist Church) funds. They can be grouped into four main categories, but their functions are not so clearly separate - for example, "ministries of service & mercy" may depend on staffing, facilities, and equipment funded by "administration & support". All areas function together to do true Christian ministry.

Apportionments fund ministry

Over the past few years, we at Oak Grove UMC have been hard pressed to maintain our Western NC Conference Apportionment obligations. Our financial resources have been tight, while we have focused our attention on doing and funding many truly remarkable local ministries. In doing so, however, we have neglected to share in the valuable ministries accomplished through our United Methodist connection. Currently we are in our strongest financial position in years to honor our covenant promises and to pursue this fundamental goal for 2012: **100% payment of Conference Apportionments.** Oak Grove has committed itself to \$14,806 in apportionments, which is about 9% of our anticipated expenses for 2012.

"Apportionments" are a shared financial commitment among the churches of our Western North Carolina Conference (WNCC). The WNCC budget is proposed, discussed, and revised each June at Annual Conference, but once approved the grand total is divided up, "apportioned", among more than 1,100 Conference churches, with larger churches paying more than smaller churches. Agencies receiving WNCC funding count on our payments to function. Our apportionment payments cover many of the same things as the budget of any congregation - salaries (for the Bishop and District Superintendents), office staffing and supplies, support for missions and ministries: like disaster response; retirement communities; retired-clergy health insurance; colleges; campus ministries; scholarships; new church starts; and many other ministries that make a real impact on people's lives in the name of Jesus.

Oak Grove UMC is incredibly generous, and there is no question how faithful you have been in keeping your stewardship commitments. Please be mindful that when you give your offerings to Oak Grove and support its budget and General Fund, you enable us to fulfill our Apportionment obligations and do essential and vital Christian ministries. You may also choose to make special, "extra mile" gifts designated to Apportionments.

Every \$1 of Oak Grove UMC apportionments goes to ...

