



Ovilla UMC
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The Good News Letter

Ovilla United Methodist Church

January 10, 2012

A Great Day In The Kingdom!

2012 is going to be another year of firsts for Ovilla United Methodist Church. Programming will continue to increase, along with discipleship responsibilities. God's purpose for all of us is a life of service, in order to build His Kingdom. There are numerous ways in which we all can serve.

Awanas is coming to OUMC. We are in need of an Awanas Captain, who can organize volunteers and programming. Please, pray about your possible role in this new ministry opportunity for our children. While other congregations have had to cut programming, we are especially blessed and must be good stewards with what God has provided our Church Family.

OUMC is also starting a **Special Needs Sunday School Ministry**. We have two volunteers already and are in need of many more. The class will meet in the main room of the Youth and Children's Building. Did you know that there are hundreds of parents with special needs children that do not have a place to worship? This is a need in God's Kingdom. I am especially excited about this one. Contact the church office if you are interested in volunteering.

Another exciting ministry opportunity coming to OUMC is our new **Local Missions Team**. Projects will be undertaken in our immediate community. This will be under the guidance of Fran and Peggy Schieffer, who are charged with all of our Missions Programming. Just ask either one of them where you can plug in for mission service. Don't forget about your **Coupon Ministry**, as well.

There is also an opportunity to serve as the **Coordinator for our After-School Program**, which will begin this year with one day a week. This is an initial pilot program to explore logistics for an eventual, five-day a week ministry.

Our Senior Fellowship is doing very well. If you are hesitant to attend, don't be...it's a great time. They'll continue with field trips and fellowship.

Sunday school for Single Adults will begin in the Pastor's Office on the 15th of January. This is not a gripe session, but an opportunity to explore discipleship in building God's Kingdom.

CTCYM Mission Trips and Glen Lake Mission trips are also on the horizon. Our **Young Adult Sunday School** Class is looking for opportunities. I hear the teacher even has certification to drive the new Church bus. Fellowship and field trips are soon to follow.

Ecclesiastes 11:4- If you wait until the wind and weather are just right, you will never plant anything and never harvest anything.

Don't wait to win the Kingdom for Christ!!! Need a place to plug in? There are many opportunities!!!

Let's continue to be the active Body of Jesus Christ!!!! It's 2012!!! Let's keep building God's Kingdom!!!! **PRAISE GOD!!!!!! PRAISE GOD!!!!!! PRAISE GOD!!!!!!**

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Joel (Proud to be the Pastor of Ovilla United Methodist Church!!! The most dynamic, prolific Church in all of God's Kingdom!!!) Matthew 28.

Mission Momentum



Let's not forget to bring those used children's books to add to the mission table. These books are given to the Baptist Children's Home in Waxahachie. This same children's home is the focus for a new volunteer opportunity. Our 2nd Wednesday volunteer day will be with this children's home. Join us from 9-12 on Jan. 11 for a busy morning spent in God's service. We will, as always, end it with lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Sewers and non-sewers, mark your calendars to help us make school bags for UMCOR on January 21. We will meet at 9AM in Fellowship Hall. Those who are willing and able bring your sewing machines and help us! We sew, iron, talk and just have a fun time together!

On these cold, gloomy, "I can't leave the house" days, clean out closets and save your "quality throw-a-ways" for the Missions Garage Sale. Date has been set for April 21, 2012, from 8AM to 3PM in the Youth Building.

Rev. Christie Robbins still needs 5PM Wednesday Clippers for QC! Not a hard job! They meet in Fellowship Hall, process the donated coupons, share available coupons with our church family and send outdated and unused coupons to our troops overseas. Troops can use coupons for up to 6 months after the expired date. Over \$5,500.00 has been collected so far and sent to a US Marine Corps base in Japan.

Save all your Christmas cards! There is a decorated box on the missions table for used or unwanted Christmas cards. St. Jude's ranch for children uses these cards to recycle and remake new cards. They then sell the cards to help fund some of their expenses. This box will be on hand through January, 2012. They cannot use Hallmark or American Greeting cards or cards with writing on the fronts (human hand-writing.) If you wish to further help, cut the front part of the cards off at the crease and just put the fronts in the donation box.

Missionaries, Jerrie and Bill Savuto will not visit OUMC on Feb. 26, 2012. They are unable to be with us until May 13, 2012 due to schedule conflicts. Some of the missionary work done by Bill and Jerrie has been funded by the OUMC Mission fund.

Mission Momentum continued.....

Just to let you know where your mission's funds go:
Manna House donation - \$150.00 per month.
Meals on Wheels donation - \$90.00 per month
North Ellis County Outreach for 150.00 per month.

ONGOING COLLECTIONS

1. Campbell soup labels and box tops for education for McCurdy School in New Mexico. Our goal for this year is 6000. Keep clipping.
2. Used cell phones for Brighter Tomorrows. These phones are used by victims of abuse to call 911.
3. **Deodorant (male or female)**, shampoo and toothpaste for North Ellis County Outreach in Red Oak. We could use more deodorant!
4. Used eye glasses for Lions Club International.
5. Fabric and crafting supplies for The Wycliffe Linguistics Center in Duncanville
6. **Coupons for QC...Come and help at 5PM on Wednesday nights in Fellowship hall.**
7. Used Christmas and all occasion greeting cards for St Jude's. (NO HALLMARK OR AMERICAN GREETING CARDS, please!)
8. Children's books for the Baptist Children's home in Waxahachie

ONGOING MISSION ACTIVITIES

Wednesdays @ 5PM-come join the QC clippers!

Jan. 11- Volunteer day at Baptist Children's Home in Waxahachie, 9AM
Feb. 1- Manna House from 10am until noon. We sort and hang clothing in The Thrift Shop. This activity is usually followed by lunch together at a nearby restaurant.

Come join us. Call Peggy Schieffer for details - 972 -223 -9351.

Jan. 19 - Missions Meeting in Fellowship Hall, 7PM

January 21 at 9AM - sew school bags for UMCOR in Fellowship Hall.
April 21 - Garage Sale

Senior Fellowship News

We will meet on Thursday, January 19th from 10:00am to 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will visit, play games, and have a brief meeting and devotion. It is potluck so bring your favorite dish. We have missed several of you lately so mark your calendar and come join us. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Music Ministries

This has been an Advent and Christmas Season of many blessings. I am most appreciative of the hard work done by the bells and choir on our cantata. Thank you for your dedication. The Christmas Eve service with music from Brooke, Courtney and Trace Dickey, the OUMC Kids, and our guest harpist, Carol West, will go down in my memory as a most worshipful experience.

On Dec. 18th six of us went to carol some of our homebound church members. I think I can safely say that we all received more blessing from this event than we were able to give. What a treasure it was to be able to join in the carols with those who aren't able to be at church with us! I would like to challenge everyone to visit these people throughout the year and not wait for next Christmas. One of the homes had so many choirs scheduled for the 18th that we were not able to go as we had planned. Let's fill the rest of the year with some good hymn singing and bell ringing visitations.

We have some members who cannot participate in bells and choir right now and we could really use more members to fill the empty spots. Please prayerfully consider coming to help us in either or both of these organizations. There is no such thing as too many members for either of these groups.

There will be no Chancel Choir rehearsal on Jan. 18th, regular rehearsal will resume on Jan. 25th.

*"Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature."
Number VII of John Wesley's Directions for Singing.*

Let's bring in the New Year with Joyful Song!

Marcia

FREE MULCH!!!

If anyone is interested in the mulch out on the new property please help yourself to it. We will leave it there for a while and after that we will burn what is left. You may call the church office if you have any questions or Russ Granzow.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

QC Coupon Clipping – Wednesday, January 11th at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Church Meal & Bible Study– Wednesday, January 11th. Meal is at 5:30 p.m. and Bible study is right after at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

OUMC Children's Around the World Adventure – Wednesday, January 11th in the Youth Building from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. p.m. For children in Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Women's Fellowship – Thursday, January 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

QC Coupon Clipping – Wednesday, January 18th at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Church Meal & Bible Study– Wednesday, January 18th. Meal is at 5:30 p.m. and Bible study is right after at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

OUMC Children's Around the World Adventure – Wednesday, January 18th in the Youth Building from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. p.m. For children in Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Sr. Fellowship – Thursday, January 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Missions Committee Meeting – Thursday, January 19th at 7:00 p.m. in Sunday school room #3.

Missions UMCOR Bag Sewing Day – Saturday, January 21st beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank You!

Dear OUMC family,

I would like to thank you once again for your great love and support in 2011. I am truly blessed to be here. When I attended the Christmas Cantata this year I remember looking at the faces in the choir and in the congregation and whispering prayers of thanksgiving for this special church. Thank you for the wonderful Christmas cards, gifts and the generous Christmas bonus. I only hope I take as good of care of you as you do of me.

I wish you all of God's best in 2012,

Michelle Campbell
Your Business Administrator

From the Youth Director

This weekend the youth are on our Here, There, and Everywhere Tour. This is a weekend mission trip to Fort Worth. We are staying at another United Methodist Church on the Eastside of Fort Worth and we will be working with various ministries on the East-side. We leave Friday evening and we will return for youth on Sunday evening. Please be in prayer for this group this weekend and leading up to the weekend.

Fuel began again this past Sunday, and we are having worship in the new building. It is great to be in a space that we have made our own! At Fuel we are currently in a series called, "Here, There, & Everywhere." Parents, you should have received "parent cues" from me in an email. If you haven't, then please let me know.

Blessings,

Patrick Turkett
patrick.turkett@gmail.com

Get Your Carpets Cleaned and Help Our Youth Group

Patrick Paluga with Ameri-tex Carpet Cleaning is offering his services again to help out our Youth. If you call him to clean your carpets (with a ticket over \$158.00) he will donate 10% of that ticket to the OUMC Youth Group. So if you need your carpets cleaned call him at 972-217-1773 and let him know you're from OUMC.

Attention New Members

If you have joined the church in either service and are not pictured in our current directory please allow Marcia, (the Music Director), to take a picture for the bulletin board. She is available right after the first service and before or after second service.

Women's Fellowship

OUMC's Women's Fellowship would like to invite women of all ages to join with us to eat, to visit, to enjoy a program, and to come together in Christian love.

For this new month of the New Year Women's Fellowship will meet Thursday, January 12, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. for pizza and a movie in the fellowship hall. Pizza, salad, and dessert will be provided by the incoming board of officers.

Some might ask, "What is Fellowship?" According to the American Heritage Dictionary, fellowship is: "The condition of sharing similar interests, ideals, or experiences, as by reason of profession, religion, or nationality. The companionship of individuals in a congenial atmosphere and on equal terms. A close association of friends or equals sharing similar interests. Friendship; comradeship."

In our case, Women's Fellowship fits very comfortably in this definition. The women share many experiences and interest through Christ. We express similar ideals and concerns about others. Women's Fellowship helps support the Manna House and North Ellis County Outreach through active participation and donations.

Women's Fellowship meets at least once a month in that "congenial atmosphere and on equal terms." We meet the second Thursday of each month. For the meeting we have a meal and gab fest. Then we have a general meeting to plan and review our activities. Sometimes we might have a program with an outside speaker. Child care is provided and food for the kiddos.

Women's Fellowship also shares similar interests. We are mostly members of OUMC, but not all of us, and meet in Christian camaraderie. We are concerned about each other and the many members of our congregation. Our program is to inform and entertain the ladies of OUMC.

Through the fellowship meetings we have developed lasting friendships. We come to know each other while sharing devotionals, programs, meals and discussions. We learn what others are interested in, what they have experienced, where they have lived, and who they have known. You may share as much or as little as you want.

There is always room for more ladies. We would love to see you Thursday, January 12th, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

So come join with us; come enjoy with us.

Sunday School Information

K-5 (meets in the Youth building): Led by our great band of volunteers. Currently studying: **Pre-school** is learning: (no information submitted.) Our **K – 5th Grade**: (no information submitted.)

College Age class (college age ; meets in the Youth Director's office): Led by JoAnn Leath. Currently studying: Christianity's Family Tree, by Adam Hamilton.

Junior high (grades 6-8; meets in the Youth building): Led by Lori Green. Currently studying: (no information submitted.)

Senior High (grades 9-12; meets in the back room of the Youth building): Led by Jim Bob Green. Currently studying: Abraham.

Contemporary Topics adult class (meets in Education building, room #1): Led by different class members. Currently studying: (no information submitted.)

Fellow Seekers adult class (meets in the front classroom in the Fellowship Hall): Led by Grant Jacobs and Don Lindop. Currently studying: God Establishes a Faithful People: God's Protection.

Time Out adult class (meets in Education building, room #3) : Led by Tom Gibson. Currently studying: (no information submitted.)

New Life adult class (meets in Education building, room #2): Led by Jim Turner. Currently studying: The Book of Luke.

Friendship adult class (meets in Education building, room #4): Led by Bob Green. Currently studying: The Faith of our Forefathers; The Role of the Christian Faith and the Founding of Our Nation (moderated by Rick Hart.)

More Thank You Notes

Dear Bells of Inspiration, Chancel Choir & Congregation,

Thank you so much for the monetary gift, the gift certificate, the scarf, candy and book. Most of all, thank you for allowing me to direct music at OUMC and for the beautiful show of your love that I receive every day.

May God bless each and every one of you,

Marcia,

To My Church Family,

I want to thank everyone for the wonderful gift that I received from you during the past Christmas Season. I truly love caring for your children. I thank you for your generosity and may God bless each of you during the coming year.

Toni Hilton

Joys and Concerns

To be on our prayer list, please call the church office with the name and reason for joy or concern. Names are rotated off every few weeks so that we have room for everyone's needs.

1-1-12

Allen Grant (Pastor of FUMC Red Oak) – please pray for his mom

Eldon Reynold's (Pastor of Good Shepherd UMC) – please pray for his son

Ruby Jean Rod – Lois Dickey's mom – health issues

John Diehl – friend of Dickey family – heart surgery & staph infection

Julie Herschkowitsch – friend of Lois Dickey – diagnosed with melanoma

Ongoing

Donnie Pickard – Ovilla Fire Chief – health issues

Jan Brooks – health issues

Katy Duncan – friend of Joel & Christie Robbins – fighting stage 4 cancer

Bob Green – beginning chemotherapy, prognosis is very good.

Mike & Kathy Dickey – continued healing for Mike and strength and peace for Kathy

Alden Harsch – recuperating from surgery

Dyrk Burcie – friend of Tommy McKee – little boy with cancer

Billy Sullivan – son of Riley Sullivan

Laura Abbott – District Admin. Asst. – on leave of absence for stage IV cancer

Recovery efforts in Japan

Terry Lynn Hendricks – Nelda's daughter-in-law – continued healing for cancer issues

Roger Hilburn – still taking chemotherapy

Estell Griffin – David Griffin's mom

Chad Jackson – health issues

Jim & Louise Garner – health issues

Robert Strafford – Jennifer McKee's dad – continued healing for heart trouble

Del and Cindy Jones – health issues and adjusting to new way of life

Home Bound

Dorothy Pope

Church Ministries

Jerri & Bill Savuto – UMC Missionaries in Africa

Haiti recovery ministries

Military

Michael Mercado, Michael Winn, Harry Evans, Steven Culley, Brian Culley,

Brandon Boyce, John David Dirk, Bobby Hodge, Audrey Webster, Stan Murphy,

Freddie Shoemaker, Cody McKee, Gregory Austin, Casey Joshua Booth, Blake

Womack

Help Wanted!

Attention Pew and Foyer Maintenance Team:

If you are looking for a place to serve in the congregation there is an area that could use more helpers. After services on Sunday the pews should be straightened, books put back, bulletins picked up and put in the recycle box in the choir robing room and trash put in the trash can. About every other week the paper supplies and pencils need to be checked. If you are willing to help with this, keeping the foyer clean and changing out the altar cloths please let me know. We have never set a regular schedule for doing this work and it would be a good thing to have a group of people to do these duties. Please let me know if you are willing to help in this area, when you are available to work, and I will show you where the supplies are located.

Thank you,

Marcia Haugarth

Attention Bulletin Folders/Those Wishing to Help Fold Bulletins,

We have several folks that helped fold bulletins last year that have had to drop out for 2012 for one reason or another. We are looking for more volunteers. We rotate you where you only have to fold no more than once a month. You may sign up as an individual or get your whole family in on the fun. Bulletins are usually ready by Thursday afternoon. You just need to pick them up and have them back at the church folded by early service on Sunday mornings. We currently fold 200 bulletins for Sunday mornings.

If you would be interested please contact Michelle Davis at 4dranch02@att.net or 972-723-6370. Thank you!

Wednesday Night Meal Coordinator Position

We are looking for someone to coordinate our Wednesday night meals. This person makes sure we have plenty of folks signed up, makes sure food is ordered and ready for our Wednesday night crowd if no one is signed up. You are reimbursed for your costs. If this is a ministry that you would like to serve in in any capacity please call the church office at 972-617-8840. Thank you.

Missions Garage Sale Coming Soon!

We have set a date for the Garage Sale. It will be Saturday, April 21 from 8am until 2pm. That date coincides with the Ovilla clean-up day and is also a date that is available on our church calendar. Please circle that date on your calendar and start getting your stuff together that you want to donate. We will be setting up on the 18th, 19th, and 20th in the mornings and again from 6 - 8 pm.

Looking forward to a fun event,

Peggy and Fran

Wings Jail Ministry Party

Volunteers are needed to attend the Wings Ministry Jail Party on February 11, 2012 in Bridgeport. This prison is a pre-parole transfer facility for women. It is located at 222 Lake Road in Bridgeport.

Wings Ministry brings prisoners and their families together with Christian volunteers in a party situation that is safe and supportive for everyone. We will be providing a pizza meal and homemade cookies, helping the inmates and their children with 3 crafts, participating in an active Bible story, playing games with everyone and sharing in a music time together.

If you would like to participate and have never been before, you will need to fill out a background form by this next Sunday (January 15th) and include a scanned copy of your driver's license. If you have already been approved for previous parties, all I need is a scanned copy of your driver's license by this next Sunday. Forms are on the table in the foyer. Call Nancy Lawrence with questions (972-223-8756). We are also in need of homemade cookies for the inmates and their families at the party. If you can make at least 3 dozen cookies and bring them to church by February 8th, please sign up on the form in the foyer.

Thanks for supporting this ministry with your presence, your cookies, and your time.

Church-wide Brunch

Please save the date! On Sunday, January 29th WE WILL NOT HAVE SUNDAY SCHOOL. Nancy Burkes Worchester will be visiting with her puppet ministry in both services and we will gather for a church-wide brunch in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday school hour. PLEASE SIGN UP TO BRING A BREAKFAST CASSEROLE IN THE FOYER and we will provide the rest. We hope to see you there!

Thank You OUMC For Your Outpouring!

This past Sunday January 8, 2012 Melissa McDuffee was commissioned in the 10:45 AM service of worship as a short term local missionary to the Wesley Foundation at the University of Texas at Arlington. Melissa will be ministering to college students for the next five months, offering a uniquely Wesleyan perspective of theology and witness during her time on that campus. As a mission intern of the University of Texas at Arlington Wesley Foundation, Melissa is raising her own salary of \$6,000. Another church has already pledged \$3,000. This past Sunday through offerings made during the last hymn in both services of worship as well as Sunday school offerings, Ovilla UMC members gave \$1,650 towards Melissa's salary. Through a generous offer from the missions committee of a matching gift of \$1,250, Ovilla United Methodist Church came up with the remainder of Melissa's salary IN ONE SUNDAY, with a little money to spare. What a great outpouring of love and affection the people of Ovilla UMC have for their own, as well as for missions beyond the walls of their local church. Please keep Melissa, her boss Rev. Joseph Nader, and the Wesley Foundation at UTA in your prayers as Melissa "Offers them Christ." In addition to being a mission minded member of OUMC, Melissa recently graduated with a degree in religion from Texas Wesleyan University and also became engaged to OUMC's youth minister, Patrick Turkett.

The Scoop On the QX for the USMC

In honor of Rev. Joel Robbins' 45th birthday, his wife Rev. Christie Robbins felt led by the Holy Spirit to start a mission minded ministry, in recognition that God has already blessed the Robbins with more than enough "stuff." From that vision of the Holy Spirit, a ministry was born & God has blessed it ten-fold through the members of Ovilla UMC.

The QX for the USMC (or Coupon Exchange for the United States Marine Corps) exists for 2 distinct purposes:

1. To swap unwanted Qs (coupons)--Members of Ovilla UMC come together on Wednesday nights at 5 PM in the Fellowship Hall to swap coupons. For example, one person might need diaper coupons but doesn't need dog food coupons. Another member needs the dog food coupons but has no use for diaper coupons. They swap those coupons, wait until those items

go on sale, and purchase the needed items for free or at rock bottom prices with a coupon. This method of "stocking up" enables members of OUMC to be better stewards of God's

QX FOR THE USMC CONTINUED....

money. In addition, in the months since the QX was begun, we have given away coupons in the grocery store and at our work places to people in need. We have been "blessed to be a blessing!"

2. To send expired Qs (coupons) overseas to our adopted United States Marine Corps military base in Iwakuni, Japan.--Our military are not paid what they should be, and overseas sometimes their pay has to stretch a lot further than what it would stateside. However, commissaries will accept coupons that have expired up to six months after their expiration date. This is a perfect solution for avid coupon clippers because there are always coupons at their expiration date that went unused. Those Qs are sent overseas through the Overseas Coupon Program (ocpnet.org) where they can be used by our men and women in the military for several months to help them stretch a dollar. In it's first month of existence, the QX for the USMC sent about \$3,500.00 worth of Qs to our USMC base in Iwakuni, Japan. This January, we estimate sending **\$10,000.00** of expired Qs to our adopted base. THANK YOU SO MUCH MEMBERS OF OVILLA UMC FOR YOUR OUTPORING OF LOVE & SUPPORT TO OUR MARINES & THEIR FAMILIES!

Here's some info on how the QX is organized:

We accept current Q inserts from the Sunday paper at any time on the missions table in the fellowship hall.

We cut Q inserts on Wednesday night beginning at 5 PM.

We organize the cut Qs into food & non-food, and then further organize them by expiration date.

We place the cut Qs into the appropriate drawers of the "Food" and "Non-Food" drawers that are located underneath the missions table--they are clearly labeled by expiration date month.

We accept expired Qs in the bin on top of the missions table. That bin will typically be cleaned out once a month.

WE CANNOT SEND OVERSEAS THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF COUPONS: THOSE PRINTED OFF THE INTERNET, STORE SPECIFIC (i.e. Target or Walgreens), CATALINAS (the Qs that print out at the registers of some stores), OR RESTAURANT Qs.

How can you help???

1. Keep bringing those current Q inserts from your Sunday paper!
2. Keep bringing those expired Qs!
3. Feel free to cut & organize your Qs into the appropriate drawers at any time.
4. Feel free to take some uncut inserts home to cut, organize by Food & Non-Food/expiration date & place in the appropriate drawers.
5. **UNCLE SAM NEEDS YOU!!! THE QX IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF PEOPLE TO HELP US CUT INSERTS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT.** You don't have to coupon or have any knowledge of couponing. All we need are people who can safely operate scissors & can organize by date. Thanks to the overwhelming response of the church we have a great number of coupons, but not enough help. You don't have to come every Wednesday--we will take whatever time you can give us.

Lastly, if you are looking for a coupon, please feel free to take what you need from the bins under the missions table at any time & leave the ones you don't want placed in the appropriate drawer.

Thanks so much for being a part of this exciting mission ministry at OUMC!