



Ovilla UMC
1403 Red Oak Creek Road
Ovilla, TX 75154
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Good News Letter

Ovilla United Methodist Church

December 12, 2011

A Great Day In The Kingdom!

During these Holydays we have received incredible gifts from our music program. These gifts required a tremendous amount of effort in their development. I am speaking to the gifts of sermon through song. Our Bell Choir and our Chancel Choir both performed with joy and gladness. I wish to thank everyone for all of their tremendous efforts.

The Christmas Cantata was absolutely beautiful this year. God's Sanctuary at Ovilla United Methodist was filled with sound most of us could not have previously imagined. Marcia worked to bring about the God given talents in both the Bell Choir and the Chancel Choir. All involved worked many hours to rehearse, review and perfect not the performance, but the praise of our Lord through music. As the sanctuary filled with the beautiful sounds of music and praise, I could not help but think of **PSALM 100:1, Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness, come into his presence with singing.**

I also look forward to hearing our children sing 'Silent Night', on Christmas Eve. There is something indescribably beautiful about hearing children singing on Christmas Eve. Your Pastor is simply trying to say, "I am thankful for you" during these Holydays.

Let's keep singing, praising, teaching and reaching God's world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!!! Jesus is THE WAY. Praise God!!! Praise God!!! Praise God!!!

Merry Christmas!!!

Pastor Joel

(Proud Pastor of Ovilla United Methodist Church, the most prolific, dynamic, United Methodist Church in all of God's Creation!!!)

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Mission Momentum



One can't miss all those coupons perched on our missions table! We do have a very generous congregation. **The QC group NEEDS CLIPPERS!** No, you do not have to trim curls or beards, just coupons! Not a hard job! Reverend Christie Robbins needs a crew on hand at 5 PM every Wednesday to clip and sort coupons. They meet in Fellowship Hall, process the donated coupons, share available coupons with our church family and send outdated and unused coupons to our troops overseas.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 \$5500.00 has been collected so far and sent to our 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. After recycling the cards they 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 front (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 visit OUMC on Feb. 26, 2012. They will be at both services and the Sunday school hour. OUMC proudly funds some of the missionary work done by Bill and Jerrie.

Thank you all! Our church members have collected and donated 59 packages of socks and 17 gift certificates to Manna House Angels in Midlothian, 18 gifts for children through North Ellis County Outreach in Red Oak and clipped 400 soup label coupons for the McCurdy School. God bless this congregation for their generosity.

We have a new collection! There will be a collection box for children's books on the missions table. These used books will be given to the Baptist Children's home in Waxahachie.

Mission Momentum continued...

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 clip...5PM on Wed. in Fellowship Hall.**
7. Used Christmas and all occasion greeting cards for St Jude's. (NO HALLMARK OR AMERICAN GREETING CARDS, please!)

ONGOING MISSION ACTIVITIES

Wednesdays @ 5PM-come join the QC clippers!

Jan. 4 - 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.

Feb 26- our missionaries to Kenya, the Savutos, to preach and teach

Senior Fellowship News

LAST SENIOR FELLOWSHIP GATHERING FOR 2011!!!

Senior Fellowship will meet on Thursday, December 15th from 10:00am to 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will visit, play games, and have a brief meeting and devotion. **The meat will be provided for lunch (HAM), so please bring your favorite side dish or desert.**

We have missed several of you lately so mark your calendar and come join us for our last gathering of 2011. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Music Ministries

The Bells of Inspiration and Chancel Choir are to be commended for the beautiful worship service they presented on Sunday evening. One member of the congregation mentioned that the bells reminded her of gently falling snow. Another commented on the choir transporting them to what they imagine heaven will be.

Many of you sacrificed family time and practiced hours longer than normal. It didn't go without notice. Thank you for serving your church family and thank you for blessing me beyond measure. I will cherish the memory of this music well into the year to come. I can hardly wait for us to start the music of the Easter season and hope that even more people will join us in 2012.

We will begin bell practice again on the second Tuesday in January. The Chancel Choir will rehearse this coming Wednesday and then will take a break until Wednesday, January 4th. **All are welcome in the music ministry!**

On a personal note, thank you for the lovely birthday blessings last week and for your generous Christmas gift.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Marcia

Newsletter Information

This will be our last newsletter of the year for 2011. **Our first newsletter of 2012 will be on Tuesday, January 10th.** We will continue newsletter in 2012 about every 2 weeks. If you have something to contribute please email it to the church office, the email address is:

ovillaumc@sbcglobal.net

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.

Wednesday Night Service Announcement

We **WILL NOT** have our Wednesday night meal, Wednesday night Bible study, Youth Bible Study, Children's activities or Chancel Choir practice on Wednesday, December 21st and Wednesday, December 28th.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Church Meal & Bible Study– Wednesday, December 14th. 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, December 14th in the Youth Building from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. For children in Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Senior Fellowship - December 15th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for games, brief meeting and devotion. It is POTLUCK, so bring your favorite side dish or desert. We will supply ham for the meat portion of our meal.

Youth Family Christmas Party – Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Building.

No Wednesday Night Meal, Bible Study, Children's Activities or Youth on Wednesday, December 21st or 28th!!!

Church Offices Closed – Our church offices will be closed on Thursday, December 22nd through Monday, December 26th.

Christmas Eve Services – On Saturday, December 24th we will have 2 different Christmas Eve Services. One at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and the other will be at mid-night in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Day Service (One/Combined Service) – Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We will have a Happy Birthday cake for Jesus after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank You!

Dear OUMC family,

There are a few people who deserve an extra thank you. What the music department would do without James Riddick I do not know and I might add, that I don't ever want to know! He is truly a man with a servant's heart. Thank you also to Preston Riddick for running sound, Michelle Davis for organizing the rose ceremony, Brad Morton for serving as an usher, Cheryl Sullivan for starting the kitchen setup so we didn't have to sing the entire Christmas section of the hymnal and Ann and Everett Spencer for help with decorations. There were many others who quietly served and I wish I could mention everyone, but unfortunately there are many I didn't see. Please know that your help was a treasured gift. Thank you again Pastor Joel for bringing instrumental music to us.

In Christ's Love,

Marcia

From the Youth Director

Our Christmas Party is coming up this Sunday, December 18th at 6:00pm in the Youth Building - bring the whole family. We will also be having a Parent Meeting at the same time. So come and celebrate Christmas with us and get information on the upcoming semester and upcoming mission trips. We will have a potluck meal. I will be providing Brisket (as the meat), so you bring the sides. We will also be having a "White Elephant" gift exchange, so bring a wrapped gift and we will have the exchange. Please let me know if you are coming, and how many in your family will be coming, so we make sure and have enough food.

On December 20th we will be cleaning the youth building starting at 8:00am, in order to varnish the floors. There will be donuts provided for breakfast.

If you have any questions, please email or call me. We will not be having youth or Fuel on Dec. 25th or Jan. 1st. We will resume our normal youth activities on January 8th.

-Patrick Turkett
Ovilla UMC, Youth Director
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

The Women's Fellowship can once again report a successful Christmas Sock Exchange. The old sanctuary was beautifully decorated and everyone in attendance was in a festive and joyful mood. The participants brought a wide variety of delicious goodies which included hot wassail and hot spiced apple cider to warm our bodies. There were many pairs of very appealing and sometimes wild socks exchanged. Sometimes the exchange was consensual and sometimes not; but all was done in good friendly fun. Tradition is to wear the socks to church the following Sunday so you may have noticed some wild and festive feet during Sunday services.

The next scheduled meeting of the Women's Fellowship group will be on Thursday January 12, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A movie night is planned for entertainment and the meal will be provided by the group's officers. This meeting promises to be lots of fun and one you won't want to miss, so please join us and be sure to bring a friend.

Please remember the Women's Fellowship supports North Ellis County Outreach (NECO). We now concentrate on 3 items for donation; deodorants for males and females, shampoo, and toothpaste, but all donations are greatly appreciated. NECO is counting on us so please consider what you can do to help.

Lost and Found

If anyone ended up with an extra deviled egg plate after the Thanksgiving dinner at the church, I am missing one.

Thank you,

Barbara Green

P.S. We do have a lost and found basket in the Fellowship Hall if you have lost anything lately and you think it might be at the church.

Marriage Retreat

We will be having a marriage retreat in February (weekend of 10th and 11th?) at Stillwater Lodge at Glen Lake Camp. No kiddos allowed! More details to follow. See Pastor Joel if you have any questions.

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: (Patriarchs: Laying the Foundation for the Coming Messiah.)

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 Covenant According to the Promise.

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.)

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Service Times and Information

Christmas Eve (Saturday, December 24th) - We will have 2 different services. Our first service will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and the other will be at mid-night. We will serve communion in both services. Our mid-night service will be brief and children may wear their pajamas.

Christmas Day (Sunday, December 25th) – We will have ONE service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. After our one service we will have birthday cake for Jesus in the Fellowship Hall. **THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON CHRISTMAS DAY.**

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.

12-4-11

Family of Sandee Larkin – friend of Jan & Marce Brooks – passing of Sandee Larkin

Donnie Pickard – Ovilla Fire Chief – health issues, admitted to hospital

Ongoing

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

Alden Harsch – health issues

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 – cancer treatment

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

Church Offices Closed

Our church offices will be closed Thursday, December 22nd through Monday, December 26th in celebration of the birth of Christ! Have a safe and Merry Christmas!