

OAK LEAVES



Sunday School 9:00 a.m
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Rev Gerald Harvey

Phone 210-492-3902

<http://www.gbgm-umc.org/oakmeadowumc>

Oak Meadow United Methodist Church

April, 2003

United Methodist Women

By Karen Harvey

Oak Meadow United Methodist Women have been busy. February 22, they assisted with Wesley Community Auxiliary Birthday celebration. Held at Oak Meadow this year, it featured a silent auction, luncheon, door prizes and lots of fellowship.

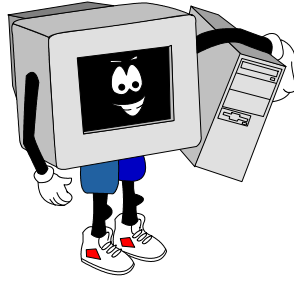
The UMW has agreed to be in charge of the church kitchen and it has been cleaned and re-organized. The women will oversee the supplies and will accept donations to assist them. Peggy Baldwin, Ruth Parrisau, and Nancy Ridenour head this committee.

On April 5th the UMW will hold their annual fundraiser Rummage Sale in conjunction with the Oak Meadow Home Owners Assn. All donations to this sale would be appreciated.

The ladies will be assisting with the Mother's Day Out Easter program and will provide

Easter eggs and refreshments for the children on April 17th. The next meeting of the OMUMW will be April 13, following a covered dish luncheon after worship.





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Oak Meadow web-site

The headline for this article is not a foreign language although it resembles nonsense if you're not familiar with this type of "electronic address". It's the internet address or URL for our recently updated website for OMUMC. For those of you who like to surf the web, please plan to make a visit. For those of you who prefer to keep your distance from computers, a description of our site is outlined below.

At this electronic location, we have provided an introduction to our church to individuals who may be new to San Antonio and/or newly interested in visiting churches in our area. This site also serves to advertise the Mother's Day Out program and other events that are sponsored by our Church. Thus, through this cyberspace existence, we hope to present our church to *potential new members*. This means of information exchange is efficient and almost a way-of-life for the 30-something and younger generations. The real challenge is to find a way to personally "connect" via this electronically distant approach. It requires extra effort and imagination. And, to achieve its purpose, the site must be maintained as a dynamic electronic location (*i.e.*, not allowed to become static or stale).

In addition to reaching out to potential new members, we also want this internet site to be useful for our regular church-goers. To this end, it can provide quick access to the comings and goings at OMUMC. For example, we plan to routinely provide updated details of scheduled events such as the OMUMC Fall Festival. In addition, this cybersite may also be of benefit to members of our congregation who've been away. For instance, we have posted the content of recent sermons by Reverend Gerald Harvey; if you miss a Sunday Worship Service, you can still read his words even though you weren't able to hear them.

Another detail about our site: it does not require monetary support! The computer which serves to store our files is maintained by the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. They allow us to use space there for free. While there is a limit on the amount (size) of things we are allowed, we have much room to expand before we run out of room. Linda McManus is currently serving as the webmaster for our site. Bruce Cramer will be coming on-board to help in the near future. While Linda only knows enough to be dangerous, Bruce has much techno know-how.

If you have ideas or suggestions about things you'd like to see provided on this site, please talk with Pastor Harvey, Linda McManus, Bruce Cramer, or any member of the Membership/Ministry Committee (this standing committee serves in oversight for our internet undertakings). Together, we can find the best way to electronically present our small church.

Linda McManus



Church Directory

Communications are integral in our goals to revitalize OMUMC. To aid in these efforts, an updated Church Directory has been developed. Personal contact information for our congregation has been assimilated and includes name, home address, phone number(s), and email address. This Directory also provides details regarding the membership and function of our standing Church Committees and Organizations. It is hoped that this will facilitate our rejuvenation.

Although much attention was directed towards the accuracy of information in this Church Directory, errors and/or additional information are anticipated and will be addressed in future editions. To this end, everyone is encouraged to forward changes to the Church office.

Copies of the new Directory were distributed on Sunday, March 30. If you didn't receive your copy, please call the Church office (492-3902).

Linda McManus

Stay awake

- Ann Siddall

"Could you not stay awake with me one hour?" Jesus asks the sleeping disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Luke 22:46) Worn out by the pace of events, unable to bear Jesus' predictions of what was to come, they simply fell asleep. And he needed them to stay awake.

But why? Jesus is the strong one, the one who reveals the nature of God, the leader and teacher. Surely he does not feel fear as we do, or need to lean on others?

"Stay awake." Keeping company with Jesus comes down to this: finding a way of living in this world that allows us to stay awake to its reality, and to the reality of God-with-us. In this Lent-Easter season, this is still the response Jesus asks of us.

But how can we stay wide awake to God, when on the outside we are surrounded by so much noise, so much information, so many people needing our attention? And when we have so much inner noise - anxiety about the future, unprocessed events, decisions and choices to keep making?

What would it be like to be really awake? To see the world's pain and its beauty? To experience all my experiences?

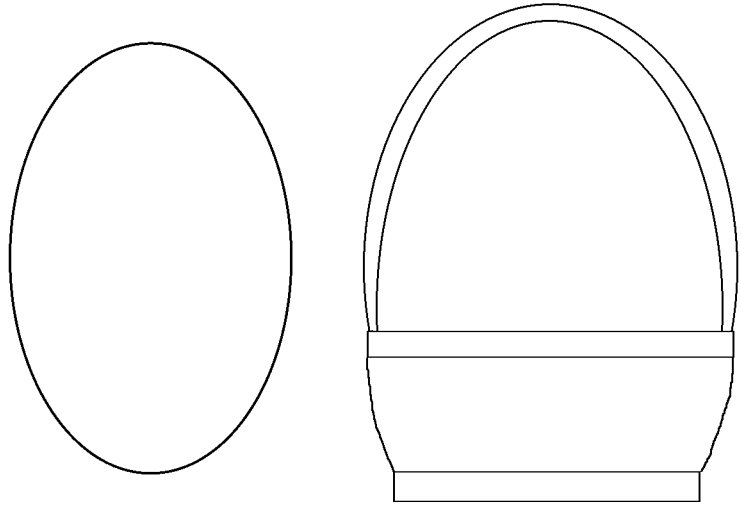
"Stay awake with me and pray." Here is the important part. If Jesus is with us we can bear to see and hear reality. To stay awake with Jesus, and to pray, is to enter into the kind of companionship that he longed for his disciples to experience. To be completely alert to life's realities, but to allow that way of being present to also be a prayer - for peace, for reconciliation, to justice, for healing, for the living out of Christ's way on earth.

As we listen again to the stories of this holy season, may we find in them an invitation to stay fully awake to all that is happening in our lives and in our world, and to keep company with Jesus Christ. Prayer brings the two together.

Basket of Blessings

Draw a large Easter basket (see sample at right). Then make several eggs from this pattern.

If you have colored paper, you can use that or you can color your eggs with crayons or markers. Think of some blessings that you have received. Write the word or draw something on each egg that reminds you of that blessing. Put the eggs in the basket. You will have a basket of blessings.



Some ideas of blessings:

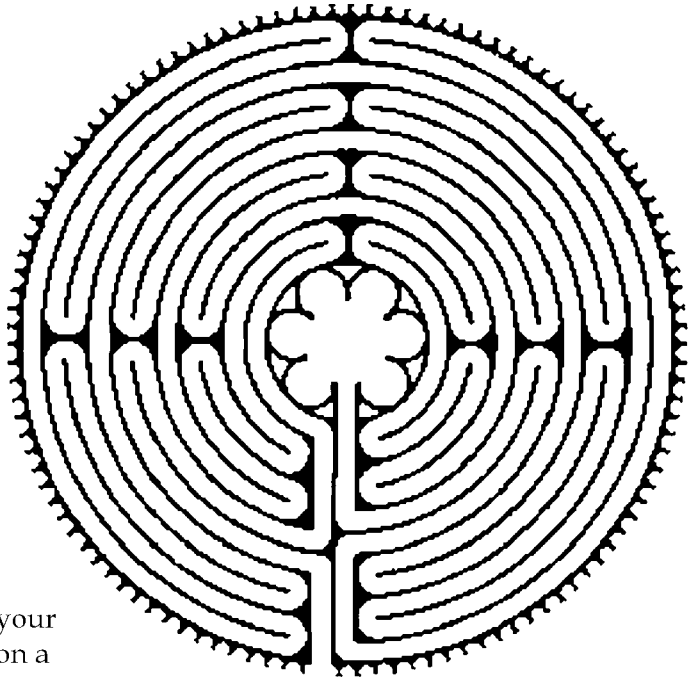
Sunshine	Flowers	Peace	Jesus
Rain	Birds	Love	Church
Hugs	Family	Food	Butterflies
Kisses	Joy	Clothes	Stars

Labyrinth

This is a kind of maze called a labyrinth (LAB - a - rinth). One way a labyrinth is different from a maze is that it has no dead ends. Once you begin tracing the pathway, you will eventually come back out again after many twists and turns.

Long, long ago it was something people used to help them pray. Some are very big. Believers would walk along the pathway, spending time in silence and prayer. The winding pathway was to symbolize taking a long trip, even though it was done all in one place. Some people still use labyrinths as a way to focus their attention in prayer.

This labyrinth is very small. You could trace your way through with a pencil, you could enlarge it on a photocopier and trace it with your finger, or maybe you could make a labyrinth on the floor using tape or a very long rope. However you decide to use it, take your time and pray while you do this. Each time you turn a corner thank God for something new.



Go to the Ant, consider his ways

Mark's teacher called in the middle of the afternoon. His mother answered the phone.

"Mrs. Smith, your son did something in class that surprised me so much that I thought you should know about it immediately." The mother grew worried. Her third-grader was usually well-behaved.

"Nothing like this has happened in all my years of teaching," the woman continued. "This morning I was teaching a lesson on creative writing. And as I always do, I told the story of the ant and the grasshopper." She recounted the story as she had in class:

"The ant works hard all summer and stores up plenty of food. But the grasshopper plays all summer and does no work. Then winter comes. The grasshopper begins to starve because he has no food. So he begins to beg, 'Please Mr. Ant, you have much

food. Please let me eat, too.' Then I said, 'Boys and girls, your job is to write the ending to the story.'"

"As in all the years past, most of the students said that the ant shared his food through the winter and both the ant and the grasshopper lived. A few children wrote, 'No, Mr. Grasshopper. You should have worked in the summer. Now, I have just enough food for myself.' So the ant lived and the grasshopper died."

"But your son ended the story in a way different from any other child, ever. He wrote, 'So the ant gave all of his food to the grasshopper. The grasshopper lived through the winter, but the ant died.'"

"And the picture? At the bottom of the page, Mark had drawn three crosses."

- A true story told by the boy's grandfather,
Leadership

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