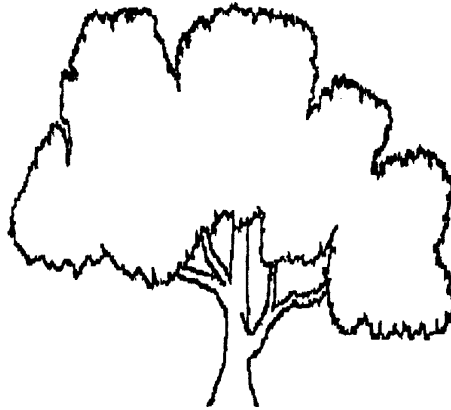


OAK LEAVES



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

Phone 210-492-3902
Email: oakmeadowumc@oakmeadowumc.org
Web Page: <http://www.oakmeadowumc.org>

Oak Meadow United Methodist Church

June, 2003

Words from your Administrative Council Chair

During the past eight months a number of our members and others have been deeply involved in numerous activities in the church. The most significant perhaps was the lengthy investigation of the feasibility of merging with University United Methodist Church.

We learned a lot about ourselves. We are a small, closely knit, loving church. As good as that may sound we discovered a lot knots and bumps. We (you, me and others) are working to unravel the knots and smooth the bumps. During this process we are discovering additional concerns regarding our church and its overall operation. We have a congregation that has shown they are willing to address and solve these problems and concerns.

We have raised over \$16,000 to pay down our mortgage and improve our financial position. We have worked with the MDO program increasing the enrollment and making the operation more effective. The adult Sunday school attendance has increased to an average of 15 people attending weekly. We have developed a new church directory and a new pamphlet for visitors and possible new

members. We have had several impromptu meals that have raised funds for the general operating account. We have completed numerous repairs to our facilities and are getting a handle on what the actual cost is to operate. We have a new computer and some new software that will assist in the administrative and financial management of our church.

A large number of you are members of the various committees and have working within the committees and as individuals to solve our problems and resolve our concerns. We need everyone to renew their commitment to the level exhibited in January and continue to help us solve our problems and make Oak Meadow the church that God would have us be. We need your continued prayers and patience as we continue to work through our problems. I am sure God will guide us as necessary as we move forward.

Peace and Grace
Russ Greiner, Chair
Administrative Council

UMC 101

What is the Lectionary?

By the Rev J. Richard Peck

Lectionaries have been used since the fourth century, and United Methodist pastors commonly use them today. The lectionary is a collection of scripture readings based on the church year, beginning in Advent. Most United Methodists use the three year (categorized as Year A, B, and C) cycle.

The revised Common Lectionary was established by the 1992 interdenominational Consultation on Common Texts. Lessons are selected from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the New Testament epistles and the Gospels.

United Methodist pastors are not required to use the lectionary, but many have found it a helpful way to ensure their preaching addresses the entire Bible and is relevant to the church calendar. Occasionally preachers will focus on only one selection. Other times they will base their sermons on all of the lessons.

The Episcopal Church Lectionary is based on the Roman Catholic lectionary, and is the product of Vatican II. This ancestry is shared by *The Revised Common Lectionary*, so lessons are frequently the same.

--The Rev J. Richard Peck is a free lance writer editor and writer in Nashville, Tennessee.--

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The Center of the Bible

This is pretty strange or odd how it worked out this way. Even if you are not religious you should read this.

What is the shortest chapter in the Bible? Psalms 117

What is the longest chapter in the Bible? Psalms 119

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118 and 594 chapters after Psalms 118. What is the center verse in the bible? Psalms 118

Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives? The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect

will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His Word!

Psalms 118:8 "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. Now isn't that odd how this worked out (or was God in the center of it?)

-- Author Unknown.--

Did you know?... hats in church

By the Rev Hoyt Hickman

Why do women customarily wear hats or some other head covering in some congregations but not in others? Why do men who wear hats to church customarily remove them once inside?

Read Corinthians 11:4-11. Paul's key words are: "Any man who prays or prophesies with something on his head disgraces his head, but any woman who prays or prophesies with her head unveiled disgraces her head...For any man ought not to have his head veiled, since he is the image and reflection of God: but woman is the reflection of man... For this reason a woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head."

Traditionally these words were taken as a command to Christians for all time, and many still do regard them. But many other Christians, especially since the 1960s believe God does not mean for us to take Paul's words about head-wear as law today.

United Methodists have no church law on the subject and are free to follow diverse customs.

--The Rev Hoyt Hickman, Nashville, Tennessee, is an author, educator and church worship expert.--

The United Methodist Women

By Karen Harvey, Pres UMW

The United Methodist Women met on April 13th and the first order of business was a discussion on how we could help the church goal of bringing in ten families this year. Our efforts will include continuation of the Wednesday night meals once a month with the next one to be May 14th and all monies collected will go to the general fund. Every

third Sunday will be a planned meal following worship with donations taken for the church. The UMW voted to pay the \$125.00 apportioned to the church for the campus ministry fund. They donated \$100 in honor of Maria Bercher to Camp Wesley. This amount will fund four children to the camp. They donated \$37.50 for the Wesley candle burning in honor of Harriet Swisher and they donated \$100 for expenses for Elizabeth Knox on her upcoming trip to Brazil.

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One Liners about God

1. Give God what's right –not what's left.
2. Man's way leads to a hopeless end – God's way leads to an endless hope.
3. A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.
4. He who kneels before God can stand before anyone.
5. In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma –but never let him be the period.
6. don't put a question mark where God puts a period.
7. Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a face lift.
8. When praying, don't give God instructions – just report for duty.
9. Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.
10. We don't change God's message – His message changes us.
11. The church is prayer conditioned.
12. When God ordains, He sustains.
13. WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.
14. Plan ahead – It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
15. Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your bible.
16. Exercise daily – walk with the Lord.
17. Never give the devil a ride – he will always want to drive.
18. Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.
19. Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.
20. Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.
21. He who angers you controls you.

22. Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.
23. Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.
24. Be ye fishers of men – you catch them and He'll clean them.
25. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
26. Read the bible -- It will scare the hell out of you.



May 11, 2003

Carry each other's burdens

Ten suggestions to offer positive help to those who grieve:

1. Be there. Comfort is a work of the Holy Spirit which is often accomplished through people.
2. Be quiet. A simple, "I'm sorry" is often all we need to say. Above all else do not say, "I know how you feel."
3. Admit you have no idea how they feel. Grief strikes us all differently.
4. Be available. Offer practical help for the future.
5. Allow space to talk. Don't force conversation. Instead gently ask, "Is there anything you want to talk about?" Let the griever lead the direction of conversation.
6. Touch in appropriate ways. Holding hands and sincere hugging help "many people. Do not hold on where the touch is unwelcome.

7. Suggest appropriate reading. Psalms 23, 46, 90, 91, 121 and 139 are a few that bring comfort. A hand-written list of helpful readings makes remembering easier.
8. Be discreet. In the agony of grief, personal information may be divulged which would not be revealed under normal circumstances. Do not repeat this except perhaps in your prayers for those who grieve.
9. Accept the validity of the grief process. Grieving takes time and closure will not be hastened by impatient words.
10. Be confident of the hope that Christ offers. His Gospel resurrection is the balm that makes us "stronger at the broken places."
 - "The Messenger," Christ Church, Charlottesville, Virginia, The Anglican Digest



God's Promise

Unscramble the words at right and fill in the blanks. Then copy the circled letters into the circles below. Unscramble the word and write it down in the lines to reveal the symbol for God's promises.

D E R
○ — —

P N K I
— ○ — —

E E R G N
— — — — ○

L E U B
○ — — —

A E R G O N
○ — ○ — — —

L E Y W O L
— — — — — ○

○	○	○	○	○	○	○
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

May/June Calendar of Events

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|---------------|-------------------------------|
| May 11 | Mother's Day |
| May 14 | Wednesday Night Dinner |
| May 18 | Fellowship Luncheon |
| May 25 | Our Graduates |
| Jun 2 | Admin Council Meeting |
| Jun 11 | Wednesday Night Dinner |
| Jun 14 | Flag Day |
| Jun 15 | Father's Day |
| Jun 15 | Fellowship Luncheon |

Fathers' Day



June 15th