

“Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.” ~ John 15:4



BRANCHING OUT

READ THRU THE BIBLE INFO – We have completed 11 of the 15 weeks of our reading of the New Testament of the Bible. We begin Week 12 on April 3 with the reading of the Gospel of John. Holy Week (April 10-14) does not have any readings assigned and left for catching up and/or reflecting upon Jesus’ passion. Extra Question Booklets are available at Oakdale’s website (www.oakdalepres.org) or on the table in the vestibule or the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall.

BIBLE GROUPS are meeting at the following times: Sunday 9:45am Downstairs Adult Class (below the sanctuary); and Wednesdays (April 5- 6pm Meal and 7pm Bible Group; no meeting time is scheduled during Holy Week April 12; April 19 and 26 will meet at 7pm at Pat Carlay and Marian Wallace’s home). You are encouraged to join one of the groups to discuss the readings and learn from others.



Oakdale Presbyterian church
12585 Highway 55 West
Clover, SC 29710

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

April, 2017

*“Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.”
Brian Wren (hymn verse of Christ is Alive!)*

These words were written at Easter in 1968, shortly after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. , to express the hope that Christ’s resurrection gives us “saving, healing, here and now” amidst the sorrow and pain that we often experience. Having faith in Christ is not simply accepting that Christ died on the cross and rose on Easter morning. It is experiencing every day how Christ is alive and gives us the power to overcome sin, death and evil. Putting one’s faith in Christ is living the cross and resurrection, by dying to the sinfulness our selfish desires and rising to live a new life. We are alive to God in Christ Jesus because we are united with Christ in his resurrection on Easter morning!

What Christ has done “touches every place and time.” It isn’t bound to distant years ago, but God is acting in each of our lives of faith and through our shared ministry at Oakdale! “We are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Romans 8:37). No matter what overwhelming challenges that we face, or what happens in our world, God promises to save and heal us.

The seasons of the Church Year move us through God’s revelation in Jesus, from anticipating with hope Christ’s coming (Advent), to celebrating how God became human in Christ’s birth (the incarnation – Christmas), to the emphasis of how Christ is made known as the Son of God to the world (The Epiphany and the Ordinary Time following), to the days of preparation in returning to the Lord and



remembering Jesus’ life, ministry, passion, and death (the 40 days of Lent), until we reach the heights of God’s revelation and purpose in Jesus’ resurrection from the dead (Easter morning and the 50 Days of Easter).

Within the next couple weeks we will be reflecting upon the central events of Christ’s passion and resurrection, during Holy Week (April 9- Palm Sunday; April 13- Maundy Thursday) and Easter (April 16). I encourage you and your family to make every effort to live lives of faith by “centering” your activities upon this revelation of God in Christ. This year at Oakdale we are doing this by: 1) following our Read Through the Bible schedule and answering Questions for Reflection and Discussion; and 2) gathering together for worship. May we experience this Easter message of how Christ is alive here and now to touch every place and time with salvation and healing!

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Ken

Committee Updates

Session

Meeting Sunday, April 9th 8:00am

Witness & Outreach

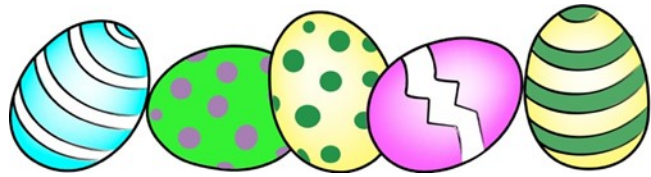
Meeting April 3rd 7:00pm

Worship & Music

Next Meeting May 7th 6:00pm

Strengthening

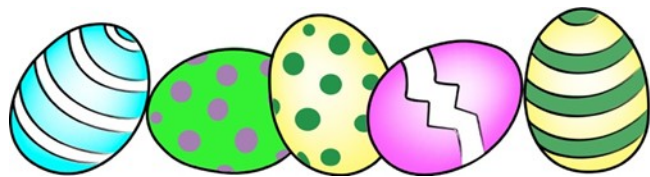
Next Meeting May 7th at 8:30am



Join us for an
Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15th, 2017
10:00-12:00

Oakdale Presbyterian Church
12585 Highway 55 West
Clover, South Carolina
803-222-7141



Congregational Care

An updated Shepherd's List has been completed and approved by the Session. Members will be contacted by the elder whose list they are on in the near future.

Holy Week and Easter Worship Services

April 9 - Palm Sunday 11am

Palm branches will be handed out to everyone (not just the children), as we raise them in remembrance of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, anticipating the events of his passion. We will participate once again in dramatic reading of Jesus' passion from the Gospel of Matthew.



Holy Week

April 9 – Holy Week Service at Green Pond United Methodist Church 6:30pm
The Clover Ministerial Assoc. has a joint service for all Clover area churches. Rev. Sam McGregor of

Allison Creek Presbyterian Church is appointed to preach.

April 13 – Maundy Thursday 7pm We will share the Lord's Supper as our Lord's last supper.



Want to Know More About What's Going On Throughout the Providence Presbytery? - Go online to the Providence Presbytery website at <http://www.providencepres.org/ITK> to view its weekly news publication, "In the Know."

April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:45 AM SS 11:00 AM Worship c	3 7:00pm Witness & Outreach 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Scrapbook Group	4	5 7:00pm Sisters Group	6	7	8
9 8:00 AM Session 9:45 AM SS 11:00 AM Worship	10 10:30am White Oak Singing 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Scrapbook Group	11	12 7:00pm Sisters Group	13	14	15 10-12 Egg Hunt
16 EASTER :00 9:45 AM SS 11:00 AM Worship	17 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Scrapbook Group	18	19 7:00pm Sisters Group	20	21	22
23/30 9:45 AM SS 11:00 AM Worship	24 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Scrapbook Group	25	26 7:00pm Sisters Group	27	28 Confirmation Cluster Retreat 4/28 to 4/30	29

Update from Bob and Kristi Rice: Called to South Sudan

Warm greetings to you! We have big news to share --we have accepted a call to serve in South Sudan! We are excited and nervous about this new venture, and need your prayers for this transition. We leave in just two weeks, so are busy with preparations and packing. We really appreciate your prayers during this challenging period of transition and adjustment. We love to hear from you!

In February we began to consider potential reappointment opportunities ...The opportunity that that we feel most drawn to is in Juba, South Sudan. The local church partners have expressed a need for two positions that fit both of us remarkably well. Bob would be teaching theology and ethics at Nile Theological College, and Kristi would serve as economic empowerment and community development advisor. After a few weeks of discernment for ourselves, the church partner, and Presbyterian World Mission, we all agree that we sense God calling us to South Sudan.

South Sudan is a new country, gaining independence from Sudan in 2011, but the people there have experienced decades of conflict, war, and suffering. Even now insecurity and ongoing conflict has led to a major famine, with more than 100,000 people experiencing life-threatening hunger and thousands in refugee camps in Uganda and elsewhere. It will not be an easy place to live. But we are encouraged that the churches there seek to be a light for Christ and a voice for peace in the midst of the suffering. There is so much potential for the impact and reach of the gospel as Christians in South Sudan are coming together and identifying the body of Christ as their primary loyalty over tribe and ethnicity.

We feel that God has “wired us” and called us to serve in places that are in great physical need. Adjusting to the new challenges of life in South Sudan (including the hot weather!) still feels intimidating. But we are excited that God has opened this door that fits our gifts and passions so well. If this feels to you like a big and sudden transition, we share those sentiments! A few months ago we were preparing to return to our home in Congo; now we are about to land in a new place and start over learning language, culture, and new work responsibilities. Sometimes our heads spin just thinking about it.

In April we plan to attend a gathering of all the Presbyterian mission personnel in Africa, held in Rwanda from April 17 to 24. After that we hope to return to Kananga to collect our things and say good-bye to our friends and colleagues. Please pray with us for God to use both of those experiences to help us transition well and be prepared for our next call. After hearing the message a few times now, “Don’t buy your tickets yet...,” we have finally received the go-ahead: “Buy your tickets!” We are planning to move straight to Juba after our visit to Congo to begin language learning. Please pray for us in this big transition!

Thank you again for joining us in this ministry—your prayers, friendship, and financial support are what makes this work possible. As we make this transition to Juba, South Sudan, we will share more as our life and ministry in that land unfolds. If you currently do not receive our newsletters via e-mail (a little more frequent than the print version), contact us and we can add you to our distribution. You can always reach us by e-mail at Bob.Rice@pcusa.org or Kristi.Rice@pcusa.org.

We pray for God to meet you in a fresh way in this season of Lent and Easter. We celebrate the hope we have in our Risen Savior, and pray that all may know the hope and life that Jesus wants for us.

Gratefully serving God together,
Bob and Kristi



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

May/June planning a hiking activity

Service Blitz during week of VBS

July 2 Youth Pool Party
(place TBA)

8/11—8/12 Montreat Retreat

August Lake Party

Fall Carowinds activity

April 16 – The Resurrection of the Lord – Easter Morning
7:00am Easter Sunrise Service at Ramah Presbyterian Church with an Easter breakfast following in Ramah’s Fellowship Hall. We join with brothers and sisters in Christ from area churches to celebrate Christ’s resurrection and share in fellowship together. 11:00am Easter Sunday Worship at Oakdale – We will read the account of Jesus’ resurrection, sing of the triumph that he has won for us, and proclaim this central message of the gospel.



Celebrating You!



Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 4/5 Gracie Robinson | 4/23 Maci Daves |
| 4/5 McKenzie Robinson | 4/24 Darrell Shaver |
| 4/6 Hunter McCarter | 4/26 June McMackin |
| 4/6 Tosha Shaver | 4/26 Ashley Jenkins |
| 4/16 Josh Marr | 4/27 Janice Melton |
| 4/18 Zoey McCarter | 4/29 Jeff McCarter |

Anniversaries

4/14 Elmer & Peggy Brown
 "Let marriage be held in honor by all." -
 Hebrews 13:4



Things to Know

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SCOTT GILLELAN

USHERS

Pat Carlay—Debra Ledford
 Libby Jenkins—Breanna Black

Elder of the Month

Steve Armstrong

A/V

Robb Marr

Nursery Volunteers

4/02 Diane Marr
 4/9 Lisa McCarter
 4/16 Jean Harris
 4/23 Tracy Melton
 4/30 Mary Brown

Financial Report

Total Budget for 2017:

\$190,990.00

If you would like a copy of the
 line item budget please see
 Libby Jenkins (Treasurer) or
 Debra Ledford (Chair of Stew-
 ardship and Finance).

Balance as of March 1, 2017 BUILDING FUND:

OPERATING ACCOUNT: \$12,623.56

\$14,333.87

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: REVENUE YTD: \$27,345.59

\$1,394.86 EXPENSE YTD: \$26,487.88

MEMORIAL FUND:

\$4,694.34

SING WITH US April. 10th AT WHITE OAK NURSING HOME –

Join us at 10:30am in the back building and 11:00am at the front building on Monday, April, 10th. .

April 25, 2017 Mission Study at the manse with Mark Adams

Our God is Undocumented: Biblical Faith and Immigrant Justice
 By Ched Myers and Matthew Colwill

Mission Connection Letter: A Weird Community, A Strange Dwelling for God