

“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

February, 2017

READ THRU THE BIBLE INFO – We have begun week 3 in our Bible reading, having completed the Book of Matthew. We will be reading the books of Mark, Luke, and Acts this month. Extra Bible Reading Schedules and Question Booklets are available at Oakdale’s website (www.oakdalepres.org) or on the table in the hallway outside the Fellowship Hall. The Question Booklet for Weeks 5-9 are now available to pickup or download.

BIBLE GROUPS are meeting at the following times: Sunday 9:45am Downstairs Adult Class (below the sanctuary); Tuesday 11:00am in Christian Fellowship classroom (call the office to verify this meeting time and place as it may change); and Wednesday 7:00pm at Pat Carlay and Marian Wallace’s home (2002 Edge Park Road). You are encouraged to join one of the groups to discuss the readings and learn from others.



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Oakdale Presbyterian church
12585 Highway 55 West
Clover, SC 29710

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing... Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. Psalm 100:2-4

Worship at Oakdale is central to our life together. If you’ve had the chance to worship in other churches and places you know that the way and pattern that God’s people worship can vary a great deal, from traditional to contemporary, formal to informal, highly liturgical to spontaneous Pentecostal. There is a variety of music as well, from sacred classical music and Christian contemporary songs to what people call “good ol’ American gospel hymns.” Oakdale has its own very distinctive way of worshipping that its members have come to appreciate and love.

The Presbyterian tradition calls for a dynamic relationship between freedom and form, all guided by the Word of God and open to the movement of the Spirit (Book of Order, W-3.1002). What this means is that there is freedom given to congregations to explore and discover the most meaningful way to worship God. This being said, there are traditions and teachings that inform the way that we have come to worship. There is actually some interesting history in the Presbyterian Church that has influenced the way people have approached worship. Revivalism and other cultural factors affected change in the Reformed (Presbyterian) Church, such that Old School and New School groups split the church in two, the New School choosing to introduce change to the tradition in order to be effective in evangelizing people, whereas the Old School held to some of the Reformed principles more closely in adapting to cultural changes. Neither was necessarily wrong. However, these differences of approach have led to different

forms of worship practice over the years. That was back in 1837 and a lot of changes have taken place since!

Why does it seem like I’m giving a history lesson about worship? I have a deep concern and feel an obligation to prepare Oakdale during its period of interim to receive and accept its next pastoral leader with open arms. One of the concerns that I have discussed with the Music and Worship Committee is that the pattern and form of worship that Oakdale follows is different than what is being practiced among mainstream Presbyterian churches, and more importantly is different than the way that most pastoral candidates are trained and taught in seminary. I am not suggesting that Oakdale throw out its beloved traditions and get in line with the mainstream. I have come to realize that Oakdale is a very special place, with an exceptional gift of familiarity and attachment to many of the ol’ time gospel and revivalist hymns, and a choir that can showcase its own Southern Gospel Choir! We need to keep singing these hymns! However, we also need to embrace the rich heritage of music, teaching and worship in the Presbyterian Church. We need to realize there could be a continual conflict that occurs when new leaders are called who are trained and educated in Presbyterian seminaries with this heritage and want to introduce what so many other Presbyterian Churches are singing and doing in worship. I believe Oakdale is a congregation unlike any in the Providence Presbytery, and should build upon and be proud of its traditions. I also believe that the people of Oakdale can hold on to its tradition and be open to a variety of music and an approach to worship that will serve its identity as a Presbyterian Church more faithfully.

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Committee Updates

Session

There will be a Session workshop on Saturday, February 4th 8:00am
Meeting Sunday, February 12th 8:00am

Witness & Outreach

Meeting February 6th 7:00pm

Worship & Music

Meeting February , February 5th 4:00pm

Strengthening

Four youth are participating in the Bethelwoods Confirmation Cluster with youth from Providence Presbytery churches. There two retreats and three additional group meetings. The first of the retreats was held Jan. 20-22. Each confirmand has an adult Covenant Partner that is an elder at Oakdale.



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

Massed Ecumenical Concert to Benefit The Haven's Men's Shelter Feb.11-

On Saturday, Feb. 11, at 4:30PM at the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, 144 Caldwell St. in Rock Hill, there will be a massed ecumenical choir concert and sung service to benefit The Haven men's shelter, Rock Hill. The choir will be under the direction of Tim Moe, Music Director, Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church, with organist/accompanist: Greg Reynolds, Music Director, Neely's Creek ARP. This is open to any interested choir members from around the area. Contact Tim Moe at tmoe@oapc.us for information.

Stewardship & Finance

Members of Oakdale Presbyterian Church, I have already talked about this during one of our Sunday services but we are continuing to get money toward the Capital Campaign so I am sure it is from some of you that were not in church that Sunday.



Due to some very generous Members, we have managed to pay off the Capital Campaign debt early. We were due to have it paid off by April, 2017, but we made our final payment in December, 2016. Once again a big thank you to those members.

For those that have committed all of their offerings toward the Capital Campaign, we need for you to let the Church Treasurer Libby Jenkins know where you want your funds to go - it can go toward the church's operating account or it can go toward the building fund.

I do want you to know that we are currently operating on a budget that we did not get enough pledges to cover. We are doing this and praying that God will guide our church and make sure our needs are fulfilled.

Thank you for your commitments to our church and God's house.

Debra Ledford Chair,
Stewardship and Finance Committee

Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism—

On Sunday, January 22, Addison Rae Baysinger and Nevaeh Alexandria Clark were baptized during the worship service at Oakdale. Addison is the infant daughter of Tim and Robyin Baysinger. Nevaeh is the nine year old grand-daughter of Gary and Darlene Gardner. Allen Black served as the sponsoring elder for each child. A baptismal box with a special baptismal candle was presented to each child with the words, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00pm Sisters Group	2	3	4 8:00am Session Workshop
5 9:45 AM SS 11:00 AM Worship Souper Bowl Offering 4:00pm Worship & Music	6 7:00pm Witness & Outreach 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Scrapbook Group	7	8 7:00pm Sisters Group	9	10	11
12 8:00 AM Session 9:45 AM SS 11:00 AM Worship	13 10:30am White Oak Singing 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Scrapbook Group	14	15 7:00pm Sisters Group	16	17	18
19 9:45 AM SS 11:00 AM Worship 4-11 Youth Outing	20 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Scrapbook Group	21	22 7:00pm Sisters Group	23	24	25
26 9:45 AM SS 11:00 AM Worship	27 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Scrapbook Group	28	29 7:00pm Sisters Group	30	31	

Missionary News From the Congo - The Work Continues

- We are grateful that the projects we are involved with in Congo continue while we are in the U.S. this year, thanks to great leadership by our Congolese colleagues. Our goal has always been to support the work of the church in Congo and help them to realize their vision for the people of Congo. We want to share updates we have received this year on just three of the projects that we care about.



Kristi and Bob Rice, PCUSA Missionaries to the Congo, who visited Oakdale on Oct.

We have written before about saving groups for women that started last year. By teaching women to save together, they are empowered to accomplish specific goals and support each other in the process. We now have six active groups in the Kanango area. The first group is nearing the end of its first cycle, when members repay all of their loans and then everyone's savings are distributed to them, with interest. This is a critical time that requires disciple, good leadership, and good calculation skills, so please pray for Victorine, the supervisor, and the members of these groups.

Another program close to our hearts is the Healing the Wounds of Ethnic Conflict Workshops. Two workshops were held last year in Kasai, bringing together people from various tribes to learn from scripture how God loves the

uniqueness of each person and culture, and how when we find healing and forgiveness in Christ for our own pain we are able to more fully appreciate and love people who are different from us.

This year we have visited churches we have felt encouraged and blessed to see how churches here in the U.S. are being a witness in their communities to the love of Christ. We were able to talk to some of the homeless people who come twice a week for a shower at a church in Garden Grove, Calif., we worshiped with recent immigrants at a church in Illinois. We realize in Congo we can get consumed with just seeing the environment around us; hearing personal testimonies of other places has been enlightening and encouraging.

We have enjoyed reconnecting with our home culture this year, but also are reminded that our "home" is now in Congo. We recently committed to another four-year term in Congo and anticipate returning in January. We consider it a privilege to serve alongside our brothers and sisters in Congo, and to be the tangible "on the ground" signs of the significant partnership between the church in the U.S. and the church in the Congo. It is the prayers, encouragement, and financial support of so many individuals and churches that have enabled us to continue. We hope you will continue this journey with us through the next four years as well.

Grace and peace,
Bob and Kristi

Worship— continued from first page

There are two approaches that we will be implementing to prepare Oakdale to welcome and accept the leadership of its next pastor:

- 1) We will begin using The Service for the Lord's Day order of worship (keeping many of the traditional pieces of Oakdale's existing liturgy, such as the Doxology and the Gloria Patri (Glory be to the Father...), and moving the Offering and Prayers to be a response to the Proclamation of God's Word); and
- 2) We will be intentional in learning and using Church seasonal hymns from Presbyterian hymnals to supplement the current hymnal that we are using.

These practices are things that Oakdale has done in the past. We have been using The Service of the Lord's Day order when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. The primary difference is that much of the service is a responsive action to the gospel that is being proclaimed, which is a central principle of Reformed teaching and worship.

The Music and Worship Committee will be discussing how we can implement these changes in the most effective way possible. Thank you for entrusting to me the privilege of leading in worship each Sunday and sharing with me the rich traditions of Oakdale's worship.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Ken

Thank You

Oakdale Women:

Thanks for your thoughtfulness the home baked goodies you sent over by Mr. George McGill and Mary Alice., The goodies were greatly enjoyed. Thanks again for remember William Goforth.

Sincerely,
Carol Gaulden

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sunday, February 4th Youth will collect Souper Bowl of Caring after worship.

Winter Jam at Spectrum in Charlotte (cost \$10 person) Youth have been invited to join with Bowling Green PC and Bethesda PC Leave Oakdale at 4pm return at 11pm. Sunday, February 19th. Sign up on bulletin board in hallway outside church office.

March (date TBD) 30 Hour Famine

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



“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope” -
Jeremiah 29:11

Birthdays

- 2/1 Joyce Metcalf
- 2/2 Cherry Armstrong
- 2/7 Emma Krashner
- 2/13 David Adams
- 2/17 Emily Beamguard
- 2/18 Maxine Black
- 2/20 Cameron Black
- 2/21 Stephanie Hines
- 2/26 “T” Cobb
- 2/27 Casey Dumire
- Catherine Faulkner

Anniversaries

- 2/10 Allen & Angie Black
- 2/17 Les & Anne McGill

“Let marriage be held in honor by all.” -
Hebrews 13:4



Things to Know

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

**BAILEY DAVES &
ROBYN BAYSINGERR**

USHERS

Les McGill—Jennifer Ledford
Benny Melton—Josh Sommer

Elder of the Month

Steve Armstrong

A/V

Allison Harvey

Nursery Volunteers

- 2/05 Scott Gillelan
- 2/12 Betsy Rose
- 2/19 Robyn Baysinger
- 2/26 Ginger Marr

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 Stewardship and Finance).

Balance as of Jan. 1, 2017

OPERATING ACCOUNT:

\$12,499.47

CONGREGATIONAL CARE:

\$1,394.84

MEMORIAL FUND:

\$4,399.27

BUILDING FUND:

\$10,867.37

REVENUE YTD: \$181,961.29

EXPENSE YTD: \$162,442.62

SING WITH US FEB. 13th AT WHITE OAK NURSING HOME –

We have missed having some of our regulars to sing with us the last three months. It is more fun to have a choir of people. Join us at 10:30am in the back building and 11:00am at the front building on Monday, February 13. .

February 28, 2017

Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Step
By Richard Rohr

Video: Recovery 2.0: Breathing Underwater