



OAK GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1295 Greenwood Road P. O. Box 333 Decatur TX 76234 940-626-4407
Reverend Shelley McNew

MARCH 2013

www.oakgrovemethodist.com



Please note: The next 5th Sunday falls on Easter Sunday.

Therefore, there will be NO Fifth Sunday Singing at Oak Grove on March 31, 2013.

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**The next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing and Covered Dish Lunch will be on June 30, 2013.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.**--Women's Terrific Tuesday devotional and work time
- Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.**--Men's Coffee and Service Hour
- Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m.**--Bible Study "The Way"
- Thurs., March 7, 14, 21, 6:00 p.m.**--Pinterest Pretties Craft Class (full at this time)
- Sunday, March 24--Palm Sunday**--Administrative Council Meeting following morning service
- Mon.-Fri., March 25-29, 12:05 p.m.**--Holy Week Services at First UMC Decatur (lunch afterward)
- Thurs., Mar. 28, 6:00 p.m.**--Maundy Thursday Service
- Sat., March 30, 2:00 p.m.**--Oak Grove Easter Egg Hunt
- Sun., Mar. 31, 7:00 a.m.**--Sunrise Service at Oak Grove
- Sun., Mar. 31, 11:00 a.m.**--Morning Worship Service



## A Note from Barbara King

If you thought that it has been a while since you received an Oak Grove Newsletter, you are correct. Due to a lot of things happening, I have had difficulty getting the newsletter written and put together. (I'm sure it has nothing to do with age!☺) I hope that the main problems have been solved and that we can resume a somewhat regular schedule of the newsletter.

Because of the delay in getting out this newsletter, the "Pastor's Perspective" may seem a little behind, as she wrote it in January. However, I think that it is still timely and appropriate. Pastor Shelley always writes a thoughtful, meaningful article.



## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear Church and Friends,

**Happy New Year for 2013!** First, I want to thank you for your generous Christmas gift to David and me. We do appreciate your love, gifts, and encouragement during the last year. You are all a BIG blessing to us and to the church. Your love for the church and support for us is meaningful and inspiring. I am always so proud to boast about the work of Oak Grove and all you do for charity.

Second, I want us to look forward to 2013, thinking of new ideas for evangelism and possibilities for service. I hope you will continue to stay healthy and will be involved in many areas of the church. I believe our friends, neighbors, and nation needs to see the reflection of the LIGHT of Christ. I know each of you have a Faith story to share.

Isaiah 60: 1-6 says *"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn".*

A church was trying to pull together a Christmas play and the congregation's little Joseph had made it a most challenging task. Nevertheless, the director decided little Joseph would be included. The plan was Joseph and the Pastor would sit up front to remind folks when to come and go in the Nativity scene.

Little Joseph was not enthusiastic about his part: "Ain't coming to no stupid Christmas play. I got better things to do, Haha! My mama's taking me to the Christmas parade."

Joseph's mother worked 2 part-time jobs, was single, and had 4 boys, so the director did not think she would be taking him to the parade. The mother was glad Joseph was at the church participating in activities.

The Pastor reasoned with Joseph by saying "if you are not here, Joseph, the angels might stay too long, the shepherds might forget to show up at the manger. We just can't do the play without you!" Joseph's parting words at the last practice were these: "Ain't coming to no stupid Christmas play."

But he did come, early even, and was wonderfully helpful getting the younger children into their costumes. Then one of the older kids yelled: "thought you weren't coming to no stupid Christmas play?" The Pastor's heart sank, sure this would do Joseph in. But Joseph just turned and declared: "Course I'm gonna show up. They can't do it without me!"

God sent Jesus as a gift to the world to be truth and light. The truth is we are commissioned through our Baptism to "Arise and Shine" and witness to the fact that the light has come, and we must shine that light so the glory of God will shine for others. God cannot shine without us; the church cannot glow the love of Jesus Christ without you. We are all important to the glory of God. "God can't do it without you, so Arise, shine, and show up!"

So let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!  
Blessings of Peace in the new year!  
Pastor Shelley

PS: "Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."



## LESSONS ABOUT LENT

This year, Lent began on Wednesday, February 13, and now we are nearing Easter. In the United Methodist Church we follow a Liturgical Year, which means we do celebrate special times like Advent, Epiphany, and Lent. Lent has been a part of the church for many years. If we take it seriously, we can learn many lessons about our faith and ourselves. Lent is the 40 days before Easter, and the purpose of Lent is to prepare our minds and hearts to celebrate Christ's resurrection in a more meaningful way.

The word *Lent* means to *lengthen*. Spring has not come but is on its way. Lent is the 40 days before Easter, not including Sundays.

Lent is a time of self-examination and of self-discipline. Lent is NOT a time of self-punishment. You are asked to fast, or give up something, for Lent. Examples of fasting might be to give up your favorite dessert, soda, or time, or adding something to your days like more prayer or acts of kindness for others. Or we might give up old habits such as thinking of "me first" or we might train our thoughts to be more positive. Another method of fasting might be seeking out opportunities to praise people or write a thank you notes, or spending more time for studying the Bible and the life of Jesus. to name just a few ideas.

For the past few weeks during Lent, we have had an opportunity for study using a book study by Adam Hamilton, "The Way, Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus." Hamilton focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus with fresh ears by drawing upon insights from history, archaeology, and the geography of the Holy Land. Hamilton's purpose is to deepen our understanding of Jesus' life while at the same time deepening our faith in Him and our love for Him.

We will also be collecting our change during the 40 days of Lent for our Benevolence Fund. Last year our change totaled over \$400. This money helped a young man have a few meals, another young man have a roof over his head for a couple of nights, and helped purchase medicine for another.

I will be praying to see you in church! I hope you will participate!

Pastor Shelley

## A LITTLE STORY

A man dies and goes to Heaven. Of course, St Peter meets him at the Pearly Gates.

St. Peter says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart." "That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth three points!"

"Three points?" he says. "Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service." "Terrific!" says St. Peter. "That's certainly worth a point."

"One point!!!" I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans." "Fantastic, that's good for two more points," replied St. Peter.

"Two points?!!!" Exasperated, the man cries, "At this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the grace of God!"

"Bingo, 100 points! Come on in!"

We often try to fix problems with glue and duct tape.

## Jesus did it with nails.

*From the Files: April 2000*



## YOU ARE A SPECIAL PERSON

You are a special person but you may not think so. When I sold Tom's products in Bowie many years ago, I knew a man that was the head cook at

Cotton's Restaurant. He was able to take 20 food orders at a time and never had to write any of them down. In the same place one of the waitresses could carry five plate lunches on her arms and hands and never drop a one. Both of them thought they were just average people, but they were special because of their talents.

I had a good neighbor named **Sam Chilton** that worked for the Terrell Ford Agency in Decatur for many years. When anyone drove into the service department, he would greet you with words like this, "It seems you need a new set of plugs or maybe new points." He seemed to know the problem even before he raised the hood of the car.

I have known **Johnny Hughes** and his family during the many years they have spent in the dairy business. They had to know farming, baling hay, fence building, mechanic work, and many other things in order to be successful in their business.

I know a woman here in Decatur that is well-known for the way that she cooks chicken and dumplings. When she brings the dish to a covered dish luncheon, people pounce right on it.

**J. Riley Gordon**, the one who designed and helped construct the Wise County Courthouse in 1895-96 was a special person, though he did not think so. He not only drew up the plans for the Wise County Courthouse but also the plans for 81 other courthouses in his lifetime.

All of us have known people who were specialists but never did think that they were. God made all of us different, and we are special in His sight. That is why it is so very important that we give Him our best. He will be pleased, and you cannot over serve God. Keep being the special person that you are.

On vacation with her family in Montana, a mother drove her van past a church in a small town and pointing to it, told the children that it was St. Andrew's Church. "It must be a franchise," her 8-year-old son said. "We got one of those in our town, too,"

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A Sunday School teacher challenged her children to take some time on Sunday afternoon to write a letter to God. They were to bring back the letter the following Sunday. One little boy wrote: "Dear God, we had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been here."



FELLOWSHIP WITH FERN

by Fern Hughes

Old-Time Remedies for What Ailed Us

Back in December, while I was sitting at home with the crud, I was wishing my mama was here to fix me a "sally rag." I am sure a lot of people don't know what a sally rag is. Mother would get a soft cloth, flannel if it was available, but any soft cloth would work. She would mix turpentine, coal oil, and Vicks Salve together and saturate the cloth with the mixture. Then she would hold it up to the fire until it was really hot, then put it across my chest and pin it to my pjs. I could just imagine having blisters all over my chest, but she must have known what she was doing because I never had a blister.

Another remedy that she had would also be laughed at today. She would mix coal oil (kerosene for you young people) and sugar together in a syrup can lid, strike a match and let it burn. It would caramelize the sugar and after it cooled, that was our cough drops. It worked better than the ones we have today.

My Daddy always kept a bottle of whisky (for medicinal purposes) and would make me a "hot toddy," using whisky, water and sugar. If he got to town, seven miles away, he would buy an orange and squeeze a little juice in the toddy. I am sure I coughed more than I needed to, just to get a hot toddy. After all, it did taste pretty good!

Folks, if you never had a dose of Black Draught, you have not experienced life. When we were not "regular," Mother would give us a BIG TABLESPOON of Black Draught. It had the consistency of ground up leaves and twigs and tasted plain nasty. She usually took me outside because the first dose came back up right away, but she kept on until I kept it down.

We had a lot of remedies that worked. I had a bladder infection one time and the doctor told Mother to boil pumpkin seeds and have me eat ten twice a day for a week. That was rather gross, but it worked.

One day one of our neighbor ladies was chopping wood for her cook stove. The ax slipped and cut her shin to the bone. They tried everything to stop the bleeding and finally filled the cut with sugar and bound it with a cloth and got it stopped. It healed pretty fast.

They had healing remedies for animals, too. When our dogs were not bouncing around all over the place like they usually did, Daddy would wrap a "copper" penny in a bit of salmon and make them swallow it and in a few days, they were all over the place. Daddy said it was worms. Johnny always got the biggest laugh out of Daddy's remedy for "hollow tail." In the first place no one ever told me what that was, but the cow would just lay around. Daddy would split their tails four or five inches and fill it full of salt and bind it with cloth. I won't ever know what it was but the cows always got okay.

I guess that is all the old sage remedies I can think of so bye till next time.

Bouncing out of her first day in nursery school at Mt. Moriah Church in New York, a 3-year-old gleefully told her mother, "We had juice and Billy Grahams crackers."



On Monday, March 4, **Betty Kennon** threw a surprise drop-in luncheon to celebrate **Lila Reed's** 89th birthday. Besides a good variety of delicious food, there was lots of fun visiting and enjoying the company of friends and relatives.

ABOUT FOLKS

Because a couple of months have passed since I first started gathering articles and information for this newsletter, I have apparently misplaced, possibly thrown away, some of my notes. Therefore, since I am relying somewhat on my memory, the following information may be sketchy but I hope not too inaccurate.

There have been several Oak Grove people experiencing the flu or some other crud that has been going around this winter, but I don't believe it has been as bad this year as it was last year. **Fern Hughes** had the flu or something that left her with a cough for several weeks. Along with that she has been suffering off and on with gout, but medication is getting that under control so that she is feeling much better now.

After Christmas **Frances Cason** was feeling better after her bout with the flu, so she decided to take down some decorations--at the top of the stairs. She fell off the ladder, then tumbled down the stairs. She was very fortunate that she did not break any bones but was very sore and bruised for quite some time.

As I write this, most schools in the area are enjoying Spring Break. The **Terrells (Tim, Rayanna, Tanner, and Jackson)** drove to Florida for their break. I'm sure they're having a great time but we really missed them last Sunday.

Lila Reed has had quite an "adventure" since the first of the year. She spent some time in 3 different hospitals, experienced the "joys" of many different tests and procedures, underwent gall bladder surgery, and finally spent some time in Senior Care Center to recuperate and regain her strength. She is back at home now feeling better. **Betty Kennon**, her constant caretaker and companion, takes really good care of **Lila**.

Three ladies in our congregation have recently undergone shoulder surgery. First, **Shirley Cassity** had her shoulder repaired and sported the pretty blue sling for several weeks. Next **Betty Jones** had shoulder replacement surgery, followed by **Sue Grantham**, also shoulder replacement. These ladies are doing well now and are all feeling much better.

Doris Barrett's daughter, **Barbara Stewart**, had knee surgery last week. She had had knee replacement surgery last year but developed an infection that was difficult to clear up. After finally getting the infection under control, she had surgery again and is now doing very well.

Our condolences to **Bob Greenhalgh** on the recent death of his mother. We miss **Bob** and **Doreen** very much here at Oak Grove, as they contributed much in all aspects of the church.

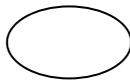
Annette Stephens has been down in her back the last couple of weeks and has really had to curtail some of her activities. However, she was able to do an excellent job leading the Pinterest Pretties Craft session last week. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and they are looking forward to the next session.

Perry Hughes recently had carpal tunnel surgery on his hand. While he is recuperating, brother **John** is helping out with the milking, as it is rather difficult to those milkers on those cows with one hand.

Not to be outdone by my friends, I had to come up with an ailment, too. I have also had gout, though not in my big toe, the most common place for gout to occur. It hit my knees, making it very painful to walk. Medication has taken care of that!



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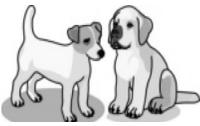
A Name to Watch For....

Kyle Crick, 20-year-old grandson of former Oak Grove member **Fred Snipes**, appears to have a promising career in major-league baseball. As a pitcher, in 2012 he was ranked #86 in the Top 100 Prospects, and established himself as the Giants' top prospect. Watch for his name to start appearing in reports of the Giants' baseball games.

Use what talents you have. The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those who sang best.

If you can start the day without caffeine;
 If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains;
 If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles;
 If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it;
 If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any attention;
 If you can take criticism and blame without resentment;
 If you can conquer tension without medical help;
 If you can relax without liquor or pills;
 If you can sleep without the aid of drugs;

Then you are probably the family dog!



PINTEREST PRETTIES CRAFT CLASSES

by Annette Stephens

The Pinterest Pretties "Make and Take It" Craft Classes are off to a great start. The first class began Thursday, March 7, with over 25 ladies from our community signed up, and a waiting list in case someone couldn't attend. Thanks to **Pastor Shelley McNew** and **Rayanna Terrell**, there were yummy appetizers and desserts to sample before the instructions began.

Under the expert guidance of **Frances Cason** and **Mary Jo Pac**, participants as young as 11 years old learned how to take a piece of material, make circles from it, and then turn those circles into beautiful flowers to adorn purses, coats, dresses, etc. **Josie Reppeto** assisted by taking attendance, greeting the ladies, and drawing the names of winners of door prizes donated by **Shelly Zimmerman** and **Shelley McNew**.

The next class will be instructions to make a swirly, flouncy scarf by simple knitting with mesh yarn, which is very popular now. The final class will be instruction in making a simple quilt square, along with the basics of quilt-making. All the crafts and food items can be found on the website *Pinterest.com*, a website where users can upload, save, sort and manage images, known as pins, through collections known as pinboards. The classes cost \$10 to cover the supplies, but the instruction is free. For more information, contact the church office 940-626-4407.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE



7:00 a.m. March 31, 2013

Oak Grove UMC Tabernacle

Coffee & Donuts in Fellowship Hall following the service

Closing Prayer:
 May the Risen Christ that promises everlasting life bring you joy, peace, and fulfillment of your earthly life. In Christ's Holy Name we pray. Amen.

CRW--April 1993