

Vol. 22, No 2 March 2014 A Newsletter to Inspire and Celebrate Oakland United Methodists

Iowa Area Resident Bishop Julius C. Trimble 2301 Rittenhouse St. Des Moines, IA 50321-3101 (515) 974-8902

District Superintendent Brian Milford Southwest District Office 1201 East 7th St, Suite 300 Atlantic, IA 50022 Phone: (712) 243-8573 Fax: (712) 243-8574 Email: b.milford@iaumc.org

Field Outreach Minister: Melissa Drake Melissa.Drake@iaumc.org

Pastor, Karen Hoff 712-482-5539 (home) 712-482-5530 (office) Email: Karen.S.Hoff@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor/Publisher Sheryl Sindt oaklandumc@frontiernet.net

Worship Service Time:

10:00 Worship 11:00 Koinonia

Sunday school Youth 9:00 a.m. Adult 11:15 a.m.





- Rev. Melissa Drake preaching February 16th
- Children's Sunday school singing during worship
- Lincoln Lee Houser baptism. Parents Luke and Joni Houser and big brother Mason. Officiated by Pastor Karen and Merlin Jones.





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Small Groups! Small Groups! Small Groups! It just seems like you can't

avoid them - that is if you want to be intentional about growing in your faith. I can't think of a faith development resource I have consulted in the last five years that didn't list participation in small groups as a way of growing in our faith.

Robert Schnase, in his book Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, writes the following about participation in small groups:

"Vibrant, fruitful, growing congregations practice Intentional Faith Development, From the first generation of Christians to the earliest Methodists to the youngest generations of faithful members today, the followers of Jesus mature in faith by learning together in community. Churches that practice Intentional Faith Development offer high quality learning experiences that help people understand Scripture, faith, and life in the supportive nurture of caring relationships. Sunday School classes, Bible studies, short-term topical studies, support groups that encourage you to make the Lenten season a time to apply faith to particular life challenges, children's church, Vacation Bible School, United Methodist Women, camps, retreats, and youth fellowship groups are only a few of the countless ways by which churches And All God's Children Said, "Amen." help people probe God's will for their lives and for the world, and bring people together to strengthen the Body of Christ by building friendships and relationships. Christian disciples strive to develop faith and grow in Christ-likeness through study and learning, and God is best able to form disciples when people do this together and not by themselves."

You may have participated in or are currently participating in one or more of the following small groups held at the Oakland UMC:

- -Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University Classes
- -Date Night Challenge
- -Advent Bible Studies
- -Lenten Bible Studies

- -Youth Fellowship
- -Sunday School Classes
- -Vacation Bible School
- -The Life Ready Woman
- -52 Things Kids Need from a Mom
- or, maybe you participate in a small group that meets in the home.

Coming in March/April are more opportunities for you to participate in a small group. Such as:

- -Made to Crave (will begin on Wednesday, March 12, more info about class in this newsletter)
- -Art of Marriage (time to be announced)
- -Lenten Bible Study (Sunday, 11:15am, April 6 &13)
- -Men's Lenten Breakfast Group (Saturday, April 5, 12, 19, at 7:00 - 8:00am)

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Lent is a season of 40 week days and six Sundays and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent is an invitation to be with Jesus, to seek his face, and enjoy his presence. I deepen your relationship with our Lord and Savior. I've heard participating in a small group just might be the way to do that!

Blessings, Pastor Karen

Visioning Time with Field Outreach Minister

Rev Melissa Drake led in a time of visioning the Mission; Dreaming the Future for the Oakland UMC on Sunday, February 16. Rev. Drake helped those in attendance identify how the Oakland UMC has been blessed and asked us to think about how might God be calling the church to use those blessings for the sake of our mission. If you have ideas please share them with Pastor Karen or the church administrative board.

Let us all pray for God's guidance as how to best use our blessings to bless others.

Ecumenical Youth Group

On Wednesday evening, January 29, four women from Catholic Charities (Phoenix House) came to speak to our youth about dating violence. The women led the youth in discussions about what is abuse, what is respect, and healthy vs. unhealthy responses.

Thirty three youth and four adults traveled to Harlan on February 19. The youth enjoyed the activities offered at the Peterson Family Wellness Center. Following their time at the Wellness Center, they went to the Pizza Ranch for supper and then to the show. All of the adults that traveled with the youth remarked about how well the youth represented the church and the community. We are all very proud of them!

The youth will be leading the worship service on April 6. Please come and worship with us and show your support for our youth.

Wanted

The Oakland UMC is in need of a volunteer to serve as the church treasurer. If you are interested in serving in this way, please talk to Pastor Karen or Bernie Bolton/Marty Rieken, Staff Pastor Parish Relation Co-chairs.

New Addition to Church Library

When the Dying Speak, by Ron Wooten Green, is a new addition to our church library. The book is an excellent book about how to listen to and learn from those facing death.

Ash Wednesday Service

You are invited to attend the Ash Wednesday service at the Oakland United Church of Christ on Wednesday, March 5, at 7:30pm. At this service we will begin to observe a Holy Lent; by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, and by reading and meditating on God's Word. Those in attendance will be invited to receive the mark of

ashes as a sign of our mortality, repentance, and new life in Christ. Please join us and bring a friend.

Welcome!

Jacen Dale Long, son of Ryan and Courtney Long, was baptized on February 2, and Lincoln Lee Houser, son of Luke and Joni Houser, was baptized on February 23. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome Jacen and Lincoln into the family of Christ.

Ron Lockwood has joined the Oakland UMC by transfer of membership from the Sharon Presbyterian Church. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome Ron into the membership of the Oakland UMC.

Vacation Time

Pastor Karen will be on vacation March 10-18. If you are in need of a pastor the 10th—11th, you can contact Pastor Marion Sindt at 641-228-0156. If you are in need of a pastor the 12th—18th, you can contact Pastor Brody Tubaugh at 712-484-2247 (church) or by email, brodytubaugh@gmail.com.

Hispanic Worship Service

The Hispanic Worship Service that meets at the Oakland UMC on Sunday evenings continues to grow. 24 worshipers were in attendance at the February 23 worship service. Pastor Reuben Mendoza who leads the service shared this good news at the SW District Hispanic Team Meeting that met in February. Pastor Reuben also praised the Oakland UMC for their hospitality. He stated the fellowship time following the worship service is very important. They greatly appreciate the volunteers who provide refreshments for their fellowship time.

A church is as large as the lives that are touched through the congregation, by the love of God. Caring is the ultimate measure of a congregation's size.—Carl S. Dudley

Come Do the Chicken Dance with Us

The Missions Committee is sponsoring our third annual Chicken Delight Pot Luck Dinner after church, March 30th. Bring a main dish that has chicken or eggs in it. We'll provide the drinks and table settings.

We will be taking an offering that Sunday for the Heifer Project. The mission of Heifer International is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. The money we raise that Sunday will go toward purchasing flocks of chickens. A good hen can lay up to 200 eggs a year, plenty to eat, share or sell. Heifer recipients pass on the offspring and training, adding chickens to communities in poverty. A flock of chicks can help families from Cameroon to the Caribbean add nourishing life sustaining eggs to their inadequate diets. The protein in just one egg is a nutritious gift for a child.

Flock to church March 30th and then join at 11:15 for fun, food, and fellowship.

Let our donations be something to crow about!!

Save the Date

Fifth Annual

Chicken Delight

(Fundraiser for Heifer Project)

March 30th

(11:15 a.m.)

Potluck

(Bring food containing eggs or chicken.)



The Reverend Brian K. Milford has been elected as the Chief Content Officer & Book Editor of The United Methodist Church. He will begin his new responsibilities on July 1, 2014.

Neil Alexander, President and Publisher of the United Methodist Publishing House, announced the election by the Board's Executive Committee saying, "A treasured part of United Methodist heritage is the importance of quality literature from scholarly to broadly popular. From the wide-ranging reading and prolific writings of John Wesley to today's Common English Bible, along with crucial teaching, preaching and worship resources, publications have always been at the heart of the life, work and witness of the people called Methodists. Brian Milford brings appreciation for that heritage, a critical mind, deep theological moorings and a pastor's heart to lead our editorial ministry for the next decade."

Milford will oversee and direct the editorial University. development for Abingdon Press, Cokesbury, Common English Bible and other imprints of the UMPH publishing program that includes books, periodicals, Bible reference products, dated and undated teaching and learning curriculum, music products and church resources

supplies. The UMPH editorial department also directs development of official UMC resources including The Book of Discipline, The United Methodist Hymnal and other approved resources, and serves as the production unit for the Daily Christian Advocate.

Upon election, Rev. Milford said, "I am excited to join the team at Abingdon Press and Cokesbury who are dedicated to providing the highest quality resources to help people know God through Jesus Christ, love God, and choose to serve God and neighbor. I am honored to join the long line of Book Editors and thrilled to work with the excellent authors and staff who bring the Good News of Christ to bear upon the considerable challenges we all face. As UMC Book Editor, I will strive to remain faithful to the Gospel and the Wesleyan tradition."

Reverend Milford is currently Dean of the Appointive Cabinet in the Iowa Annual Conference. He has served Emmanuel UMC in Granger, Iowa, Methodist Churches in Greytown and Featherston New Zealand and Lovely Lane UMC in Cedar Rapids. He has chaired jurisdictional and conference task groups, been a delegate to the last two General Conferences, and was the head of the Iowa Delegation in 2012. He will continue to maintain his lowa Conference membership as an Elder and serve this Appointment Beyond the Local Church with the United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, Tennessee. He received his Master of Divinity degree from the Divinity School at Duke University and his B.A./B.S. in Business As Chief Content Officer/UMC Book Editor Administration and Sociology from Iowa State

> About Milford's new role, Bishop Julius Trimble said, "Brian has demonstrated exceptional leadership in Iowa and across the Church. Imaginative, innovative and deeply rooted in

Wesleyan theology Brian has exemplified what a servant leader as missional strategist can accomplish. A team leader who is well respected by laity and clergy, this superb communicator, writer and preacher will make a big difference in the life of the Church. I am pleased that he is taking on this unique role at an important time for the church and the publishing house."

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Rev. Brian K. Milford will be ending his term as the Southwest District Superintendent on June 30, 2014. To honor his seven years of serving in the SW District, we would like to host a Reception for him on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>April 26</u>, <u>2014</u> at the <u>Griswold United Methodist Church (100 Cass Street)</u> from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. A Program and Presentation for Rev. Milford will follow from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

If anyone would like to contribute toward some special <u>Gifts</u> for Rev. Milford, please send your money to Shirley Lewis (SW District Executive Administrative Assistant) and mail to the SW District Office (1201 E. 7th Street, Suite 300, Atlantic, IA 50022) Rev. Milford has also requested support for a <u>Scholarship Fund at Duke Seminary</u> that he holds close to his heart. If submitting any funds, please <u>make your checks payable to the</u> "<u>Iowa Annual Conference</u>", and <u>note in the Memo line what you would like the money to go toward</u>. If nothing is indicated in the Memo line, the money will automatically go toward the Scholarship Fund at Duke.

We hope to make this a very special event, and would love to have the entire District present! Let's make this a day that Rev. Milford will never forget!!!

New Southwest District Superintendent

Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble announced Sunday that the Rev. Terra Amundson will become the new Conference Superintendent for the Southwest District of the Iowa Annual Conference. She will begin her ministry on the District on July 1, 2014.

"I am pleased to welcome a gifted pastor and leader in the Iowa Conference," Bishop Trimble said. "Terra has led worship at the Annual Conference Session and has served faithfully in the local church and Annual Conference"

Rev. Amundson is currently Pastor of the Asbury United Methodist Church in Webster City. Ordained Elder and elected into full membership in the Iowa Annual Conference in 2006, she has served congregations in Hornick, Shell Rock Valley, Nora Springs-Rudd-Plymouth-Rock Falls, New Hope Parish, Iowa Falls (associate pastor), and Centerville (First).

She succeeds Rev. Brian Milford as the Southwest District Superintendent. Rev. Milford will become Chief Content Officer and Book Editor of The United Methodist Church in July.

Farming is more than making money. It's also making memories.

"As a father of nine-working our small farm and trying to make ends meet-this thought keeps me going," says Elizabethtown, Kentucky, farmer Ted Zaehringer.

"The family may not remember our profits, but they will always remember working and sweating together and

caring for orphan lambs and pigs. Or snapping beans while sitting on the porch singing songs. Or stuffing sweet red strawberries in our mouths as we work the strawberry field.

We'll always look back on these times wondering howand maybe even why-we did it. Yet, each of us will have our special memories."

Coming Soon: Made To Crave Group Study

Is the motivation to meet your 2014 resolutions beginning to sway? Do you find the ability to make changes more difficult each day? Are you wanting to be healthier but find your daily vices to get you through the day more enticing? Come join the Made to Crave group study at Oakland United Methodist Church for a new way to look at making positive changes in your life.

Starting Wednesday, March 12, we will embark on a six-session video study with author, Lysa TerKeurst. Using Made to Crave video clips, participant's guide, the Bible and each other, we will discover the missing link between a woman's desire to be healthy and the spiritual empowerment necessary to make that happen. According to the author, we were made to crave. Craving isn't a bad thing. But we must realize God created us to crave so we'd ultimately always desire more of Him in our lives. Many of us have misplaced that craving towards overindulging in physical pleasures instead of lasting spiritual satisfaction. For a woman struggling with unhealthy eating habits, Made to Crave will equip her to: *Break the 'I'll start again Monday cycle' and start feeling good about herself today *Stop beating herself up over the numbers on the scale and make peace with the body you've been given *Discover how your weight loss struggle isn't a curse but rather a blessing in the making *Replace justifications that lead to diet failure with empowering Go-to Scripts that lead to victory. *Eat healthy without feeling deprived * Reach your healthy weight goal while growing closer to God through the process. This group study can also be helpful for those dealing with other vices than unhealthy eating habits.

Sessions will be 1 hour in length and will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 pm at the Oakland United Methodist Church, starting March 12. Please contact Kristy Rieken at 402-658-4856 (call or text)

or the church office (712-482-5530) with your commitment to crave God more or with questions. This group study is open to all - no affiliation with the Oakland United Methodist Church required. Not quite sure if you are ready to make the changes – no worries. Come check out the group and let God help you decide.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

DIOCESE OF DES MOI N ES

because we all need a little help along the way
Katie Kieffer Outreach Advocate Phoenix House
Domestic: Violence Shelter & Sexual Abuse Program
Tel: 712.256.2059 ext. 1009 - Fax: 712.256.1186
24 Hr. Crisis Line: 712.328.0266 - TF: 1.888.612.0266
kkieffer@catholiccharitiesdm.org www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES MISSION

"Guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, we serve all people in need with compassion and competence, advocate for justice, and encourage all people of good will to share in these efforts."

Part-time job opening in Council Bluffs

Epworth UMC Council Bluffs Iowa has an opening for a part-time Music Director. This will be a Salaried Position with about 24 hours a month at most.

If anyone is interested please mail your resume to: Epworth UMC

2447 Avenue B
Council Bluffs IA 51501
or e-mail it to:
secretary@epworth.omhcoxmail.com
By MARCH 10, 2014

Mary Peterson Administrative Assistant - 712-323-3124

М	arch Calendar of Events	March Daily Reading Guide
Sun, 2nd	9:00 a.m. Sunday school/Women's Study	1 Psalm 84
	10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion 11:00 a.m. Koinonia	2 Psalm 80
	5:00 p.m. Hispanic Service	3 Psalm 86
Wed, 5th	6:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group attending Ash Wednesday service at Oakland Congregational UCC at 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service at Oakland Congregational UCC	4 Psalm 90
		5 Psalm 91
		6 Psalm 57
		7 Psalm 59
Sun, 9th	Daylight Savings time changes ahead 9:00 a.m. Sunday school/Women' Study	8 Psalm 61
	10:00 a.m. Worship/1st Sunday of Lent	9 Psalm 62
	11:00 a.m. Koinonia 11:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study	10 Psalm 63
	5:00 p.m. Hispanic Service	11 Psalm 6
	6:00 p.m. 4 H meeting	12 Psalm 7
10th - 18th	Pastor Karen will be on vacation	13 Psalm 8
Wed, 12th	6:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	14 Psalm 9
	6:45 p.m. Crave Group Study (on the stage)	15 Psalm 15
Sat, 15th	10:00 a.m. Circa Club luncheon	16 Psalm 16
Sun, 16th	9:00 a.m. Sunday school/Women' Study 10:00 a.m. Worship/2nd Sunday of Lent	17 Psalm 17
	11:00 a.m. Koinonia	18 Psalm 24
	5:00 p.m. Hispanic Service	19 Psalm 25
Wed, 19th	6:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	20 Psalm 26 21 Psalm 27
	6:45 p.m. Crave Group Study (on the stage)	22 Psalm 30
Thu, 20th	7:00 p.m. Administrative Board meeting	23 Psalm 31
Sun, 23rd	9:00 a.m. Sunday school/Women's Study 10:00 a.m. Worship/3rd Sunday of Lent 11:00 a.m. Koinonia	24 Psalm 32
		25 Psalm 33
	11:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Hispanic Service	26 Psalm 34
Wad actb		27 Psalm 40
Wed, 26th	6:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group 6:45 p.m. Crave Group Study (on the stage)	28 Psalm 41
Sun, 30th	9:00 a.m. Sunday school/Women's Study 10:00 a.m. Worship/4th Sunday of Lent	29 Psalm 46
		30 Psalm 48
	11:15 a.m. Chicken Dinner for Heifer Int'l 11:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study 5:00 p.m. Hispanic Service	31 Psalm 50

NURSERY

VOLUNTEERS

2nd Suzanne Pierce

9th Gloria Gleaves

16th Carrie Bane

23rd Lindsey Henderson

30th Kristy Rieken

USHERS,

GREETERS,

CANDLELIGHTERS

2nd Bernie & Norma Bolton Mark & Mischa Martens

Candle lighters

Eric & Calvin Duhachek

9th Alan & Connie Gardner Jerry & Suzanne Pierce

Candle lighters

Grace Gleaves & Camryn Pierson

16th Merle & Veva Larson Mark & Lynelle Jeppesen

Candle lighters

Anna Duhachek & Emma Ehmke

23rd Doc & LaVinna Blanchard Marty & Kristy Rieken

Candle lighters

Kyler Rieken & Andrew Jones

30th Skip & Ilene Applegate Gerald & Carol Wilson

Candle lighters

Kristian Martens & Sarah Jones

KOINONIA

2nd

9th Coffee

16th

Ushers & Greeters

23rd Lucia Kinnison & Sandy Bane

30th Heifer International Chicken Dinner

5:00p.m. Hispanic Worship Service

Host Nursery

2nd Joan Shanno

9th Barb Schorsch

16th Margaret White

23rd Lisa Rollins

30th Terry & Cyndy Haines & Family

Sunday School Teachers

2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th

Pre K Leigh Carrie Lindsey Jodi Carrie

K-1st Jodi Leigh Lynelle Jamie Leigh

2nd-4th Jen Sue Jen Sue Jen

5th-7th *** P Karen *** Pastor Karen

Music Pam

*** No class the 2nd and 16th

Mark your calendars!

March 30 will be Heifer International Sunday with the usual chicken dinner.

Camp Sunday will be April 27th.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/01 Nedved, Molly

03/01 Forrester, Collin

03/03 Applegate, Sheila

03/03 Putnam, Zach

03/03 Bane, Drake

03/08 Kinnison, Lucia

03/09 Fulton, Beth

03/14 Colvin, Wayne

03/14 Harris, R.J.

03/16 Hoff, Karen

03/16 Keiser, Teresa

03/17 Thompson, Zachary

03/18 Gleaves, Dana

03/19 Johnson, Jim

03/20 Copenhaver, Skylar

03/20 Blackburn, Jean

03/20 Beedle, Eric

03/21 Henry, Grant

03/22 Hildebrand, Chris

03/24 Merkle, Dick

03/24 Kinnison, Noah

03/25 Jeppesen, Clark

03/25 Sparks, Cherise

03/26 Brown, Diane

03/27 Bane, Roy

03/27 Obrecht, Tiffany

03/29 Hamilton, Alyssa





Our Military Family

Kristie Copenhaver, John & Mary Lou Copenhaver's daughter; Jared Myers, son of Robert Myers and Sid &

Tami Skank; Sonja Husz, Niece of Butch & Velda



Husz; Lucas Smith, Addie Mae's grandson; Brian Thornton from Avoca; Tyler Clark, Marvin & Carolyn Clark's grandson: Brad Grosvenor, Cathev Grosvenor's son stateside, and other area service men and women. Landen Pedersen, son of Tab and Lorie Pederson

If you have a loved one in the service and wish to have them listed on our prayer list, please contact the church office.

Iowa Annual Conference in June

Are you interested in learning how the Methodist Church of Iowa decides on the actions they take for the coming year? Do you have strong ideas about what you would like to see happen in the conference churches? If you have any interest at all in how the Conference operates, you could be a delegate to the Annual Conference in June representing the OUMC.

There is an allowance set aside for expenses to be in Des Moines for 3 or 4 days. There is some free time to have for yourself. For more information please contact Pastor Karen in the church office. (482-5530)

NURSING HOMES - Remember those in the nursing homes with cards and visits.

Oakland Manor: Margaret Alff, Audrey Hartje, Dorothy Martens, Lucille Bentley,

Erma Cleaveland,

Oakland Heights: Janice Harris, Pat Burgett







February Trivia answers

- What New Testament woman was married to a priest named Zacharias? Elizabeth, Luke 1:5
- Who begged her sister for some mandrakes, hoping they would help her bear children. Rachel, Genesis 30:14
- To what woman did Jesus declare "I am the resurrection and the life"? Martha, John 11:24-26
- Who sat at Jesus feet while her sister kept house? Mary, Luke 10:39-42
- What two women witnessed Jesus' tears over their dead brother? Mary and Martha, John 11:32-39

- What disciples mother-in-law was healed of a fever by Jesus? Peter's, Mark 1:30-31
- 7. What wicked woman, wife of a wicked king, brought about the death of John the Baptist? Herodias, wife of Herod, Luke 3:19
- How much time did cousins Mary and Elizabeth spend together during their pregnancies? 3 months, Luke 1:56
- Who offered to bear the guilt if her scheme to deceive her aged husband was found out?
 Rachel, Genesis 27:13
- Who said to her husband, "Give me children, or else I die". Leah, Genesis 30:1

BIBLE TRIVIA with hints

- Which of Jacob's wives was the first to bear children? Genesis 29
- 2. What woman was called a prophetess by Luke? Luke 2
- Who died giving birth to Benjamin? Genesis 35
- 4. What clever woman hoodwinked her father-inlaw out of a signet ring and bracelets? Genesis 38
- Who falsely accused her Hebrew servant of trying to seduce her? Genesis 39

- What woman was the mother of two of Jesus' disciples? Mark 15:40 (see also Matthew 27:56)
- 7. Who asked Jesus for the special water that would quench her thirst forever? John 4
- 8. Who called Jesus "Rabboni"? John 20
- To what earthly woman did Jesus say "God is a Spirit"? John 4
- 10. Which of David's wives was described as "very beautiful to look upon"?
 2 Samuel 11

From The Complete Book of Bible Trivia by J. Stephen Lang; Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Copyright 1988

OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

200 North Main PO Box 606 Oakland, IA 51560

Phone: 712-482-5530 Parsonage ph. 712-482-5539

E-mail: oaklandumc@frontiernet.net

www.oaklandiaumc.org Rev. Karen Hoff, Pastor Sheryl Sindt, Secretary

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"We invite all persons to be a part of our Community of Faith by participating in worship, education, fellowship and Christian service."

Disciple Express

Sunday school classes singing at Oakland Manor



Toilet paper collection for Open Door Mission

