



DISCIPLE EXPRESS

Vol. 24, No 1 February 2015 A Newsletter to Inspire and Celebrate Oakland United Methodists

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Worship Service Time:

9:00 Children's Sunday School
9:00 Choir Practice
10:00 Worship
11:00 Koinonia
11:15 Adult Sunday School



Some Christians in the United States attend special Ash Wednesday church services. This includes students who Catholic and other church schools. Priests usually place blessed ashes in form of the cross on individuals' foreheads to remind them of mortality, sorrow for sins, change, and forgiveness.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lenten discipline for observant Christians. It is traditionally a time of fasting and prayer in preparation for receiving or reaffirming baptism at Easter. For some Christians, Lent is a time to think about one's life choices and mortality, as well as reflect on life directions. It serves as a wakeup call for some Christians. There are also those who choose this time of the year to donate to charities or take part in charity events as a way to get close to God.

Ash Wednesday Service, February 18, 7:30

"We seek to grow in Christ and to share our love of God in Word and Deed."





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Under the glass on my office desk, I have three different reminders to myself. One is a prayer titled *A Prayer for a New Venture*. I don't remember where I got the prayer, but I do remember when I put it under the glass – three and a half years ago – when I came to serve the Oakland UMC. The prayer asks God for guidance and strength and courage and confidence and peace of mind. It also mentions “taking one day at a time.”

The second reminder is a copy of a writing that was in a church newsletter. It reads, “My child, you worry too much. I've got this, remember? Love, God.”

The third is a handwritten note from a child who was like family. Written in different colored markers the note reads, “I love you!!!!”

Maybe you, too, have reminders to yourself under the glass on your desk or maybe on your refrigerator or in your wallet or some other place.

I call these writings under the glass on my desk *reminders* because they help me remember what is important to remember. I believe they are important for all of us to remember.

First, we need to always remember that God is with us. Sometimes we forget that truth when we face a challenge. We sometimes forget our God is a big God. Most days we see God as much smaller than our Creator is. We focus on ourselves and what we cannot do instead of focusing on God and what God can do in our lives. It really isn't about us, although many times we make it about us. It is about God, always has been and always will be.

Second, most of us worry too much. Maybe we think that is part of our responsibility as mature adults, to be sure everything is handled and taken care of. Sometimes it's okay to sit back and let God get it. And finally when all is said and done what is really going to matter in life is how you loved – how you loved God, how you loved the people God gave you

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to love, and how you loved yourself.

It is a new year! I am going to try, with God's help, to lean on God more, worry less, and love better. Would you like to join me?

Blessings,

Pastor Karen



Missions

Many thanks for your involvement in our December mission projects. The Wednesday Ecumenical Youth Group, assisted by Margaret White, made snowmen out of gourds and frosted cookies and sang Christmas carols for our residents of the Oakland Manor/Heights.

Monies you donated in November were used to purchase items for the December Shoe Box Angel Ministry. The third Sunday Mission offering in December totaled \$688. This offering is for the Sienna /Francis House Homeless Shelter in Omaha. The blankets and outer wear you donated were taken to the Open Door Mission in Omaha. The Christmas Eve Offering of \$339 was designated for the RCA Food Pantry. You provided Christmas gifts for six children through our Angel Tree Ministry.

“Come and possess the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me. The righteous will then answer him, ‘When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me!’” Matthew 25:34-40

February Birthdays

Disciple Express February Daily Reading Guide

Michaela Vlcek	02/01
Dave Applegate	02/02
Hank Beedle IV	02/02
Ana Wilson	02/04
Ron Waggoner	02/06
Keaton Wright	02/06
Allyee Pierson	02/06
Collette Beedle	02/07
Drake Roller	02/07
Carol Carley	02/09
Ellyanna Henderson	02/09
Arlene Hackett	02/10
Mark Jeppesen	02/10
Christan Jacobsen	02/10
Maximus Applegate	02/11
Tim White	02/13
Nathan Parkhill	02/13
Dave Forrester	02/14
Dave Allen	02/14
Larry Kinnison	02/14
Cyndy Haines	02/15
Robert Copenhaver	02/16
Erica Carley	02/17
Grant Bane	02/17
Debbie Parker	02/18
Ilene Applegate	02/19
Jackie Hildebrand	02/19
Marilyn Hebing	02/19
Lisa Putnam	02/20
Haylee Vlcek	02/21
Alex Gleaves	02/22
Brookelyn Bane	02/22
Brianna Skank	02/23
Lincoln Houser	02/23
Ainslee Hamilton	02/24
Tenslee Hamilton	02/24
Amy Kelly	02/25
London Schueman	02/27
Kyra Martens	02/28



1	John 3: 1-21
2	John 3: 22-36
3	John 4: 1-42
4	John 4: 43-54
5	John 5: 1-18
6	John 5 19-47
7	John 6: 1-24
8	John 6: 25-71
9	John 1: 1-10
10	John 2: 1-29
11	1 John 3: 1-24
12	1 John 4: 1-21
13	1 John 5: 1-21
14	1 Corinthians 13: 1-13
15	John 10: 1-21
16	John 10: 22-42
17	Psalms 23
18	Psalms 51 Ash Wednesday
19	Psalms 52
20	John 13: 1-20
21	John 13: 21-38
22	John 14: 1-31 1st Sunday of Lent
23	John 15: 1-17
24	Mark 12: 13-27
25	Mark 12: 28-34
26	Deuteronomy 6: 1-25
27	Ephesians 3: 1-21
28	Ephesians 4: 1-32



Thank You from Riverside Elementary

January 9, 2015

Oakland United Methodist Church

Dear Pastor Karen Hoff and the fine members of the Oakland United Methodist Church,

Once again, we at Riverside wanted to thank you all for assisting with our holiday donation program again this year. With your help, some of our families received some extra gifts under the Christmas tree. We are truly grateful for all of your efforts.

Only through organizations like yours can we continue to provide a little extra for families that otherwise might not have such a lucrative Christmas. Your kindness is only exceeded by your generosity, and we are all fortunate to have such amazing people in our community.

Warmest regards,



Chip Stanczak

Riverside Elementary

GODLY HUMOR

The Shipwreck Survivor

One balmy day in the South Pacific, a navy ship espied smoke coming from one of three huts on an uncharted island.

Upon arriving at the shore they were met by a shipwreck survivor. He said, "I'm so glad you're here! I've been alone on this island for more than five years!"

The captain replied, "If you're all alone on the island why do I see THREE huts."

The survivor said, "Oh. Well, I live in one, and go to church in another."

"What about the THIRD hut?" asked the captain.

"That's where I USED to go to church."

At Sunday School they were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Johnny was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?"

Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

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Administrative Board Meeting Nov. 20, 2014

Present: Barb Schorsch, Bud Beedle, Dick Merkle, Louise Merkle, Gloria Gleaves, Lyle Bentley, Norma Bolton, Bernie Bolton, Pastor Karen Hoff

After prayer concerns were shared, Pastor Karen opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report: The report was read. Lyle motioned to approve. Norma seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was read. Norma motioned to approve. Gloria seconded. Treasurer's Report will be printed in Newsletter.

Finance Committee: The 2015 budget was presented. Norma motioned to approve. Lyle seconded.

Trustees Committee: Work on church roof has been completed. Parsonage needs to be sided.

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Bernie presented the 2015 Pastoral Support Report (Form I). Bernie motioned to approve. Lyle seconded.

Pastor's Report:

Calendar:

Nov. 20 – Faith and Fitness

23- Baptism & RCA

Thanksgiving Meal

26- Thanksgiving Program at Sr.
Citizen Center

Youth: Nov. 19- Thanksgiving Lesson

Dec. 03- Bake/Craft for Nursing Home

10- Caroling at Nursing Home

17- Christmas DVD

Mission Committee: No report. After discussion, it was decided to collect blankets, coats, hats, gloves, etc. to be given to homeless shelter in Council Bluffs/Omaha.

Nomination Committee: Committee is in the process of nominating.

Memorial Committee: Lyle thanked Craig Hummel for filling in for him on All Saint's Sunday. Lyle reported a \$500 memorial in memory of Wayne Colvin was given for the elevator fund.

New Business:

The time for the Christmas Eve Service was set at 9pm (same as last year). The Christmas Eve Offering will be given to the RCA Food Pantry (possibly to be used for milk). The Hanging of the Greens will take place following worship on Nov. 30. Sandwiches will be ordered from Blimpies. We will take decorations down following worship on Jan. 4.

We will participate in the Holiday Gift Program thru Riverside Schools.

The ESL Classes will be done in December.

The Hispanic Worship Leaders are considering not offering the worship service any longer due to changing needs.

As there was no further business to come before the board, Bernie made a motion to adjourn. Bud seconded. Barb closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Karen Hoff, Recording Secretary Pro tem

Reasons churches don't ask clown ministries to return:

1. They force people to smile during the 8 am service.

2. It's hard to say with dignity, "The sermon today will be given by Brother Umpa-Doody."

3. Whoopee cushions inevitably appear under pew cushions.

4. Sermons take a lot longer when they are in pantomime.

5. Many denominations do not recognize Reasons Churches Don't Ask Clown Ministries to Return seltzer water baptism.

6. Dribble glasses used during the communion service.

7. They have to pay janitors extra to get all of the silly string off the ceiling.

8. The kids pop their balloons during closing prayer.

Save the Date

On February 15th our new Southwest District Superintendent, Rev. Terra Amundson, will join us for worship. She will share a sermon with us. We hope you can join us this Sunday to welcome Rev. Amundson and to hear her message.

2015 Planning Session

Come join us for our annual church planning session following worship on February 15th. We will share a meal together and then prayerfully discern as a church how we can best *Seek to grow in Christ and to share our love of God in Word and deed.*

Hispanic Worship

The Hispanic Worship Team who led the 5pm worship service at the Oakland UMC for the last three years decided the last of November to not offer the service any longer, at this time. The number of those attending had dropped significantly, partly because of people relocating. In this newsletter are words of thanks to you from the Hispanic Worship Team. In addition, Earnest Ruehle attended the January Ad Board meeting to express his thanks to the church for our hospitality to the Hispanic Congregation.

I also want to thank you for your years of ministry to the Hispanic Congregation. Over the years more than 30 families/individuals from our congregation have volunteered to provide refreshments and child care. You have truly shown the love of God to others. Thank you.

Pastor Karen

Lent Sermon Series

Lent begins on February 18, Ash Wednesday. During the Sundays of Lent, the sermons will focus on a book by Mike Slaughter, lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church, titled *Renegade Gospel- The Rebel Jesus*. In this Lenten series, Slaughter invites us to join him in challenging the illusions many of us have constructed of a benign, Sunday School Jesus who only taught u

nice ways to live and who exists to serve our personal needs and take us to heaven. Over the days of Lent, we will encounter the rebel Jesus, who came to initiate a revolutionary movement to bring God's kingdom into the world. In the process, we will be encouraged to consider what it means to follow such a Savior, and what the true cost of discipleship is.

Pray for

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**, Cathey 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.

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 Neuonia Timberman, Joan Turner, Anita Killion



Movie 'Selma' sparks reflections on church, racism

A UMNS Commentary

By Gilbert H. Caldwell

Jan. 8, 2015 | ASBURY PARK, N.J.

Seeing the movie "Selma" with my family and an interracial group of viewers at a theater in Harlem brought back my personal memories of the Selma to Montgomery march.

The film offers all faithful United Methodists a chance to reflect on how the denomination of that time — with its structure of segregating African-American churches into the old Central Jurisdiction — dealt with racism. And it raises the question: What can The United Methodist Church of today learn from the film and its own history?

I was one of many clergy and religious leaders who responded to the "call" to come to Selma, Alabama, following "Bloody Sunday," when about 600 marchers were attacked on the Edmund Pettus Bridge with tear gas and billy clubs by state and local law enforcement officials.

One of the clergymen on the plane from Boston was the Rev. James Reeb, the white Unitarian minister who would be beaten and later die of his injuries. In the film, Reeb is called a "white nigger" for participating in the march. I took part in his memorial service at Arlington Street Unitarian Church in Boston.

The march was scheduled to begin the Tuesday after "Bloody Sunday," but arrangements had not been completed for police and state trooper protection, so marchers walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, prayed and then returned to Selma on what became known as "Turnaround Tuesday."

I returned to Boston, then rejoined the march on the day before marchers entered Montgomery, presenting money raised in Boston to support the walkers.

The Rev. Gilbert H. Caldwell. A 2008 file photo by Maile Bradfield, UMNS.

Harry Belafonte had invited well-known entertainers from Hollywood and elsewhere to participate in the march and a rally that night. In his autobiography, "My Song: A Memoir of Art, Race and Defiance," Belafonte describes the rain and the mud of that day and evening, and lists the names of celebrities present.

He failed to write that Gil Caldwell, a 31-year-old Methodist preacher from Boston with no musical,

comedic or acting ability, but with a deep commitment to racial justice, was on the stage with the entertainers. I will never forget it.

Not a documentary

It is important to remember that the film is not a documentary. Thus, whatever squabbles there are about the portrayal of President Lyndon Baines Johnson should fade into insignificance when placed next to the portrayal of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement.

Every American ought see and then discuss this film!

To read more of this article go to:

<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/movie-selma-sparks-reflections-on-church-racism>

*By David Tereshchuk**

December 18, 2014—UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, was drawn into the island country of Sri Lanka by the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami that occurred on December 26, 2004.

The massive tidal waves, high force winds and torrential rains caused havoc throughout the region, and Sri Lanka was especially hard-hit. An estimated 40,000 Sri Lankans were killed, and almost a million people there suffered the upheaval of lost homes and livelihoods.

UMCOR opened a country office on the island to respond to needs of survivors. The challenges of doing so were exacerbated by Sri Lanka's nearly three decades of ethnic-based armed conflict, which reignited not long after the tsunami. This provoked further displacement of families, the effects of which continued until the conflict finally ended in rebel defeat in 2009.

"UMCOR was one of few agencies responding to the tsunami in eastern Sri Lanka that also were able to respond to the final stages of the conflict and then promote post-conflict sustainable development," said Sharad Aggarwal, UMCOR's director of International Programs.

"UMCOR worked hard," he added, "to respond sensitively and in a manner that proved accountable to donors and to beneficiaries."

To read more of this article go to:

<http://www.umcor.org/umcor/resources/news-stories/2014/december/1218srilankadecade>

Thank you from the Hispanic Ministry

We want to thank you
for welcoming us Sunday
after Sunday during the
past years.
Thank you to each of you
who came and took care of
our children and for the
snacks that were always
delicious.
May the Lord bless all of you,
this church, and Pastor Karen
and family.

*With warmest thanks,
grateful hearts,
and deep appreciation
for your
thoughtfulness.*

Hispanic Mi

Pastor Karen and member of
Oakland United Methodist Church,
Thank you!

Thank you for your support
during these 2 years; it meant a
lot to me. Thank you for
since day one you welcome me
with open hearts.

I appreciate the opportunity
you gave me to be part of
the Hispanic Ministry in
Oakland. Thank you for your
acceptance, kindness, and showing
the love of God in many ways.

May the Lord bless each
one of you, your families, and
everything you do prosper. May
His presence be with you
always.

It's hard to find words

that would even begin

to thank you enough

for how thoughtful you've been.

Yours in Christ:

Cindy Serpas

NURSERY

VOLUNTEERS



- 1st Hayley Haines
 8th Cyndy Haines
 15th Kyra Martens
 22nd Sheila Applegate



USHERS,

GREETERS,

CANDLELIGHTERS

- 1st Alan & Connie Gardner
 Doc & LaVinna Blanchard

Candle lighters

Aiden Bell & Sarah Jones

- 8th Mark & Lynelle Jeppesen
 Merle & Veva Larson

Candle lighters

Camryn & Allyee Pierson

- 15th Skip & Ilene Applegate
 Marty & Kristy Rieken

Candle lighters

Emma & Aaron Ehmke

- 22nd Gerald & Carol Wilson
 Jean Blackburn & Jessie Shiffer

Candle lighters

Anna & Calvin Duhachek

KOINONIA

- 1st _____
 8th Mary Lou Colvin & Mary W.
 15th Suzanne Pierce
 22nd _____



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February Calendar of Events

- Sun, 1st 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation Class/Choir Practice
 10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
 11:00 a.m. Koinonia
 11:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- Wed, 4th 6:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups
- Sun, 8th 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation Class/Choir Practice
 10:00 a.m. Worship
 11:00 a.m. Koinonia
 11:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- Wed, 11th 6:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups
- Sat, 14th 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
- Sun, 15th 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation Class
 10:00 a.m. Worship/D.S. Rev. Terra Amundson will preach
 11:00 a.m. Koinonia
 12:30 p.m. 2015 Church Planning Session
- Wed, 18th 6:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups
 7:30 p.m. Ash Wed Service at Macedonia UMC
- Sun, 22nd 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation Class/Choir Practice
 10:00 a.m. Worship/First Sunday of Lent
 11:00 a.m. Koinonia
- Wed, 25th 6:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups

Mark your calendars!

- Sat, 14th 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
 Sun, 15th District Superintendent Rev. Terra Amundson preaching
 Sun, 22nd 1st Sunday of Lent

Trivia with Hints

<p>1. What harlot became a hero for saving the life of Joshua's spies and was so honored in later days that she is listed in the genealogy of Jesus? (Joshua 2, 6)</p> <p>2. What loving woman, a concubine of Saul, watched over the corpses of her slaughtered children, protecting them from birds and animals? (2 Samuel 21)</p> <p>3. Though her profession was condemned by an official decree of King Saul, the king disguised himself in order to get help from her. Who was she? (1 Samuel 28)</p> <p>4. What Persian queen upset the king and his counselors by refusing to appear before them at their drunken banquet? (Esther 1)</p>	<p>5. What dancer so enchanted Herod that he offered her anything she wished? (Matthew 14)</p> <p>6. Who was turned into a pillar of salt? Genesis 19)</p> <p>7. What king of Judah was Abi the wife of? (2 Kings 18)</p> <p>8. What sister of David had the same name as one of David's wives? (1 Chronicles 2)</p> <p>9. What woman was given as a wife after her future husband brought in two hundred Philistine foreskins as a gift to her father? (1 Samuel 18)</p> <p>10. Who offered a bottle of milk to an enemy soldier and then killed him? (Judges 4)</p>
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From *The Complete Book of Bible Trivia* by
J. Stephen Lang
Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Copyright 1988

December Trivia Answers

<p>1. The only female judge in Israel, she judged the tribes from under a palm tree. Her victory song is famous. <i>Judges 4-5; Deborah</i></p> <p>2. What widowed prophetess was 84 years old when she saw the young Jesus in the temple? <i>Luke 2:26-38 Anna</i></p> <p>3. What wife of David had been married to Nabal, who died when she told him of the gifts she had given to David? <i>1 Samuel 25: 18-20 Abigail</i></p> <p>4. What elderly cousin of Mary became the mother of John the Baptist? <i>Luke 1: Elizabeth</i></p> <p>5. What prophetess, active during the reign of Josiah, consoled the king while chastising the people of Judah? <i>2 Kings 22: 14-20 Huldah</i></p>	<p>6. What scheming princess of Tyre married and manipulated the weak Ahab and imposed her pagan religion on Israel? <i>1 Kings 16-19; Jezebel</i></p> <p>7. What Israelite woman aided the people by murdering the Canaanite Captain Sisera in her tent? <i>Judges 4: 17-22 Jael</i></p> <p>8. What Jewish girl married a Persian emperor and helped save her exiled people from extermination? <i>The book after Nehemiah Esther</i></p> <p>9. What two sisters from Bethany had a brother named Lazarus and were close friends of Jesus? <i>Luke 10: 38-42 & John 11 Mary and Martha</i></p> <p>10. What prophetess was the sister of two great leaders and was once afflicted with leprosy for being rebellious? <i>Exodus 15 & Numbers 12 Miriam</i></p>
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Disciple Express

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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."



Mischa's car heading to Open Door Mission. Also collected was \$350.25.

See us at:

Web page: www.oaklandiaumc.org

Facebook.com/oakiamethchurch

