



DISCIPLE EXPRESS

Vol. 24, No 10 November 2015 A Newsletter to Inspire and Celebrate Oakland United Methodists

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Worship Service Time:

10:00 Worship

11:00 Koinonia

11:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School

September thru Mothers' Day

9:00 Children's Sunday School

9:00 Choir Practice



Come, Ye Thankful People ...

Thanksgiving Blessing

O God,

We thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers.

Grant us a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thornbush is aflame with your glory.

For each new dawn is filled with infinite possibilities for new beginnings and new discoveries. Life is constantly changing and renewing itself. In this new day of new beginnings with God, all things are possible. We are restored and renewed in a joyous awakening to the wonder that our lives are and, yet, can be.

Amen.

(Walter Rauschenbusch)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

! Corinthians 9:8-12 reads:

God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. As the scripture says, "He gives generously to the needy; his kindness lasts forever." And God, who supplies seed for the sower and bread to eat, will also supply you with all the seed you need and will make it grow and produce a rich harvest from your generosity. He will always make you rich enough to be generous at all times, so that many will thank God for your gifts which they receive from us. For this service you perform not only meets the needs of God's people, but also produces an outpouring of gratitude of God.

Among the many blessings I am thankful for, is the generosity of the Oakland United Methodist Church congregation. Sunday, October 25th was Ingathering and Mission Giving Dedication Sunday. During the worship service, we heard stories about people who have personally been blessed by the missions you have given to, people whose lives have been transformed through your giving. We heard about Lindsay who found hope at the Open Door Mission and Maggie who benefited from the work of Society of St. Andrews. We were introduced to John who is now living a changed life thanks to the Sienna/Francis House. We learned how the Heifer Project helped Oscar and his family make a living. We saw how lives are being changed through the work of the missionary we support, Larry Kies. The 85 Layette Kits placed before the altar will bring much joy to new moms in Nigeria.

There are many more stories.

Sometimes the many needs of the world can be overwhelming. While it is true we cannot help everyone, we are called to do what we can. Every life matters. You may have heard the story of the Starfish. It goes like this:

Once upon a time, there was a man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work. One day, as he was

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walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, he walked faster to catch up. As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a child, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The child was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean. He came closer still and called out "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?" The child paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean." "I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled man. To this, the child replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die." Upon hearing this, the man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!" At this, the child bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into ocean. As it met the water, he said, "I made a difference for that one."

Jesus says, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did for me."

(Matthew 25:40)

Thank you for sharing what God has blessed you with. Your giving does make a positive difference in the lives of our brothers and sister near and far.

May you have a very Blessed Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Karen

The Adult Study, The Call, by Adam Hamilton will begin on November 8th in the Adult Lounge following the 10 a.m. worship service. The Call is a study of the life of Apostle Paul. Hope you can join us.

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Youth Group News

The Ecumenical 7-12th grades youth group have been very active. On



September 19th the youth traveled to Adventureland for UM Youth Day.

The following Wednesday the youth volunteered at the Habitat ReStore in Council Bluffs. On October 14th the youth traveled to Tim White's pumpkin patch to pick pumpkins and roast hot dogs around a campfire. The youth heard Eric Samuel Timm share about his faith in Jesus Christ and listened to a performance by Orphan's Cry in Treynor on October 21.

Thank You

Thank you for the many acts of kindness shown to us at the time of the loss of our mother. The memorial monies you gave in memory of our mother, Betty Conklin, will be given to the Atlantic First United Methodist Church where our mother was a member for many years and to the Atlantic Public Library where our mother was the librarian for many years.

Blessings,

Pastor Karen & Jerry & Family

Pat Saltmarsh & Family



Ingathering 2015

The 2015 Annual Thanksgiving Ingathering will be Saturday, November 7, at the Greenfield UMC. Thanksgiving Ingathering is a way for Iowa United Methodists to address needs locally and around the world. There will be mission project presentations, a bazaar, a quilt and wood craft auction, food, worship, and music. You are invited to attend.

Schedule of Events

8:30-10:30 – Bazaar and Baked Items Sale

9:05-9:35am – Two 30-minute Mission project presentations

9:40-10:10am – Two 30-minute Mission project presentations

10:30am – Worship in the sanctuary

After Worship- Lunch served in Fellowship Hall

1pm – Quilt and woodcraft auction

Everyone is invited!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tue, Nov 3	Charge Conference at Macedonia UMC 7:00 p.m.
Sat, Nov 7	Ingathering at Greenfield
Sat, Nov 14	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sun, Nov 15	3rd Sunday Offering for Shoebox Angels Poinsettia orders due
Thu, Nov 19	Ad Board meeting
Nov 21 - 27	Pastor Karen on vacation
Nov 22	Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Worship 6:00 p.m.
Tue, Nov 24	NO Tasty Tuesday Community Meal
Sun, Nov 29	Decorate the church & Blimpies lunch

Riverside Church Association Thanksgiving Dinner/Worship

Please join us for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Worship Service to be held at Oakland Community building on November 22 at 6pm. We will share a meal together at 6pm and a Thanksgiving Worship Service will follow.

Please bring a dish to share. The drinks and table service will be provided.



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NURSERY

VOLUNTEERS

- 1st Pam Ehmke
 8th Barb Schorsch
 15th Carrie Bane
 22nd Lindsey Henderson
 29th Hayley Haines



USHERS,

GREETERS,

CANDLELIGHTERS

- 1st Jean Blackburn & Jessie Shiffer
 Richard & Joan Shanno
 Candle lighters
 Camryn & Allyee Pierson
 8th Leigh Bell & Lisa Rollins
 Lindsey Henderson & ReAnn Hildebrand



- Candle lighters
 Aiden Bell & J J Wilson

- 15th Mary Waggoner & Barbara Schorsch
 Cathey Grosvenor & Norma Taylor

- Candle lighters
 Eric Duhachek & Claire Harris

- 22nd Dawn Turner & Carolyn McJunkin
 Calvin & Anna Duhachek

- Candle lighters
 Emma & Aaron Ehmke

- 29th Bud & Marsha Beedle
 Gene & Gloria Gleaves

- Candle lighters
 Kyler & Keaten Rieken

KOINONIA

- 1st Sharon J & Carol W
 8th Mary W & Mary Lou C
 15th Pam & Emma E
 22nd Gloria G
 29th Decorate for Advent



Coffee Fellowship



Remember those in
 Nursing Homes with
 cards and visits.



- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Oakland Manor | Margaret Alff
Lucille Bentley
Erma Cleaveland
Joan Turner
Pat Burgett |
| Oakland Heights | Janice Harris
Neunonia Timberman
Anita Killion |



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.

November Birthdays

- 1 Andy Blackburn
- 1 Kristian Martens
- 3 Ethan Rankin
- 3 Mason Houser
- 4 Mardell Peek
- 6 Alan Gardner
- 6 Gayla Henry
- 6 Justin Pierce
- 9 Grady Jeppesen
- 12 Leslie Cleaveland
- 14 David Gute
- 14 Hayley Haines
- 14 Carley Danker
- 14 Ellen Carley
- 15 Jason Carley
- 15 Molly Hughes
- 16 Kelly Turner
- 19 Cathey Grosvenor
- 19 Beverley Zuch
- 19 Wesley Henry
- 20 Neuonia Timberman
- 21 Jeff Bartlett
- 23 Dane Wilson
- 26 Gordon Frizzell
- 26 Declan Schueman
- 28 Margaret Alff
- 29 Tami Skank
- 29 Jordan Pierce
- 30 Diann Larimore
- 30 Cale Bentley
- 30 Lisa Hummel

This
Month's
Birthdays



Daily Bible Readings

- 1 1 Chronicles 13: 1-14
- 2 1 Chronicles 14.1-17
- 3 1 Chronicles 15.1-24
- 4 1 Chronicles 15.25—16.7
- 5 1 Chronicles 16.8-43
- 6 1 Chronicles 17.1-27
- 7 Psalm 8
- 8 Psalm 73
- 9 Psalm 75
- 10 Psalm 76
- 11 Psalm 80
- 12 Psalm 81
- 13 Psalm 82
- 14 Psalm 84
- 15 Psalm 87
- 16 Psalm 89
- 17 Psalm 90
- 18 Psalm 91
- 19 Psalm 92
- 20 Psalm 93
- 21 Psalm 95
- 22 Psalm 96
- 23 Psalm 97
- 24 Psalm 98
- 25 Psalm 99 Thanksgiving Day
- 26 Psalm 100
- 27 Luke 20.45—21.4
- 28 Luke 21.5-24 First Sunday of Advent

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For all the kindness you have shown,
We thank you very much,
For sympathy in sorrowing days,
For friendship's healing touch
With gratitude our hearts are full,
Though words cannot convey
The tender thoughts and thankfulness
We hold for you today

By the family of
Joan Bartlett
Thank you for providing
such a great lunch after
the funeral service.
Jeff Bartlett

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair,
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,
If so we saw it there,
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
As any friend could say;
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day,
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much whatever the part.

The family of
Jim Johnson

Thank you for the
lunch after the funeral.
Joretta & family

Methodist Ladies
Thank you so much for the
lovely lunch provided after Judy's
memorial services. We appreciate
all the contributions of sandwiches,
salads and desserts. It was a very
pretty setting with your colorful table
cloths and arrangements. We thank
you for all the organization, time
and clean up for this luncheon. It
was greatly appreciated.
Kendall Bentley's family

Dear Pastor Karen and the Methodist Church Family,

Jason, Ellen, and I just wanted to say thank you. First, thank you to Pastor Karen for doing Ellen's baptism, especially after having your own rough week. Also, thank you to everyone who helped behind the scenes and who stopped by with well wishes. There's no better reminder that there's no place like home than being surrounded by the church community. Thank you to all of you for welcoming Ellen into your hearts.

Sincerely,

Jason, Erica, and Ellen Carley



Other Mission Work This Year

Open Door Mission	\$350.25
Human Relations Sunday	\$293.96
Children & Family Urban Movement	\$402.50
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$166.00
Heifer International	\$531.66
Native American Ministries	\$124.25
Camp Scholarships	\$387.00
Iowa Disaster Relief	\$333.00
Peace With Justice Sunday	\$354.00
Missionary Larry Kies	\$360.50
Society of St. Andrew	\$463.25
Preschool Books	\$403.00
Layettes—In-Gathering	\$615.50
Shoebox Angel	\$125.00
World Communion Sunday	\$149.00
Syrian Refugees	\$615.00
Aid and Assistance	<u>\$1,397.35</u>
Congregational Total	\$7,071.22
Mission Committee Donations	\$1,900.00
<hr/>	
TOTAL Giving so far	\$8,971.22

Photo: Hunger doesn't take a holiday, and neither do the Society of St. Andrew's gleaning volunteers! (July 4, 2015 sweet corn gleaning near Charlotte, NC)

Society of St. Andrew
Potato Project • Gleaning Network • Harvest of Hope
 NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
 3383 Sweet Hollow Road • Big Island VA 24526
 434-299-5956 • 800-333-4597
www.endhunger.org

September 16, 2015

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We are truly grateful, and our hungry neighbors are blessed by your caring hearts and prayerful generosity! Through Oakland UMC's \$1663.25 Advance gift to the Society of St. Andrew (received yesterday), you will share 33,162 servings of healthy, nourishing food with people in greatest need. You are making a real difference in so very many lives!

Thank you for all the ways that Oakland UMC reaches out as the hands and feet of Christ, and thank you for making the Society of St. Andrew one of your partners in ministry. Together, we share health and hope, in Christ's name.

*Every blessing,
 Lynette Johnson
 Director of Church Relations*

GODLY HUMOR

Not to be taken seriously.

1. Why was Moses the most wicked man?
2. What book of the Bible mentions a baseball player who hit 10 home runs?
3. What Old Testament character must have been as strong as steel?
4. What animal could Noah not trust?
5. How long was Noah in the belly of the whale?
6. How do we know there were newspaper reporters in Bible times?
7. What animal on the ark had the highest intelligence?
8. Which burns longer—a candle under a bushel or one on a hill?
9. Out of Gideon's 70 sons, how many were big men at birth?
10. What kind of lights did Noah have on the ark?



ORDER YOUR

Poinsettias

Poinsettias are one of the ways we decorate our sanctuary and, also, honor someone we love or would like to remember during the coming Advent season. Place your order now by filling out this request form and placing it with your check in the offering plate, or by contacting Sharon Jones at #482-3687. Single six-inch plants are \$6.75 each (eight inch are \$15.00) available to us through an area grower and payable with your order. They are available in RED, WHITE, PINK, or MARBLE.



(Following worship on Christmas Eve you may take your plant home.)

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th.

ONLY A FEW LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Given by

In memory/honor of

RED _____ PINK _____ WHITE _____ MARBLE _____
 SIZE 6 inch 8 inch (Mark each you want)

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November Calendar of Events

- Sun, 1st Daylight Savings Time Ends
9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice/
Confirmation
10:00 a.m. Worship/All Saints Celebration/
Communion
11:00 a.m. Koinonia
- Tue, 3rd 7:00 p.m. Charge Conf. at Macedonia UMC
- Wed, 4th 6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
- Sat, 7th InGathering at Greenfield UMC
- Sun, 8th 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice/
Confirmation
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Koinonia
- Wed, 11th 6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
- Sat, 14th 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Sun, 15th 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice/
Confirmation
10:00 a.m. Worship/3rd Sunday Offering
11:00 a.m. Koinonia
- Wed, 18th 6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
- Thu, 19th 7:00 p.m. Ad Board Meeting
- 21st—27 Pastor Karen on vacation
- Sun, 22nd 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Koinonia
6:00 p.m. Comm. Thanksgiving Dinner/
Worship
- Tue, 24th NO TASTY TUESDAY MEAL
- Wed, 25th NO YOUTH GROUPS
- Thu, 26th All Day Thanksgiving Celebration and meal at
Carson Community Center
- Sun, 29th 9:00 a.m. Sunday School/Choir Practice
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Decorate the Church & Blimpies

Liturgy for November

- 1st Ruth 1:1-18
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34
- 8th Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44
- 15th 1 Samuel 1:4-20
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14,
15-18, 19-25
Mark 13:1-8
- 22nd 2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12
Revelations 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37
- 29th 1st Sunday of Advent
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

.....
A father was approached by his small
son who told him proudly, "I know what
the Bible means!"
His father smiled and replied, "What
do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible
means?"
The son replied, "I do know!"
"Okay," said his father. "What does
the Bible mean?"
"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy
replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic
Information Before Leaving Earth.'
.....

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Administrative Board Minutes

September 17, 2015

Present: Barb Schorsch, Skip Applegate, Gloria Gleaves, Norma Bolton, Merlin Jones, Lyle Bentley, Dick Merkle, Louise Merkle, Kristy Rieken, Pastor Karen Hoff

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was read. Lyle motioned to approve. Dick seconded.

Finance Committee: The committee will be meeting soon to work on 2016 budget and stewardship plans.

Trustees Committee: The Elevator Planning Committee was not able to present a report this month. If info is ready, the committee will report at the October Ad Board meeting.

Pastor's Report:

Calendar: Sept. 22 Professional Interview
23 District Committee
Meeting/Hispanic Team Meeting
Oct. 11 Baptism

Youth: Sept. 19 UM Day at Adventureland
Sept. 23 Habitat for Humanity

Mission Committee: The 3rd Sunday Mission Offering will be used to purchase items for Layette Kits for Thanksgiving Ingathering.

Nomination Committee: The committee will be meeting soon to work on nominations for 2016.

Children's Education Committee: Kristy reported Sunday School Teachers are needed.

Adult Education Committee: Kristy is leading a DVD/Book Study (Blessings) on Wednesday evenings.

Old Business: The 150th Anniversary Book is in progress.

New Business: The Mission and Ministry Plan for 2016 was completed.

As there was no further business to discuss, Lyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Skip seconded.

Barb closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Karen Hoff, Recording Secretary Pro tem

Your Help is needed!!!

Oakland Manor/Heights has put out a call again this year for help with "Black Wednesday," the shopping day for the Residents on Wednesday, December 2nd. This all day event allows the Residents to shop for Christmas items for family and friends.

Shirley Allen, Activity Director, has requested volunteers for gift wrapping or to help out in any way this year. Any amount of time you can share.

Also needed are small gift items for men, women, and children.

To help please contact Shirley or Chantel in the Activities Department at 712-482-6403 to sign up for your time and a food count. (Food and drinks will be available for volunteers.)

Coat Collection

We will be collecting coats again this season to give to those in need.

You can bring your coat donations to the Oakland UMC.



All Saints Sunday

On November 1st we celebrated a day of remembrance for those in our church family who have gone on before us. We also dedicated memorial gifts given in the past year. Following the lighting of the candles for those from our church family who have gone on before us, there was be a time for anyone in the congregation to come forward to light a candle in remembrance of a family member/friend who has passed away in the past year.

Upcoming in December— Hanging of the Greens

It is hard to believe that the Advent Season will begin soon. The first Sunday in Advent is November 29th.

We need your help to prepare our church for the Advent Season. Following the 10 a.m. worship service on November 29th we will decorate the church and share in a light meal together. Hope you can join us!



November Trivia with Hints

1. Who came to Peter late at night and released him from prison? (Acts 12: 6-17)
2. Who had a late night visit from an angel, who assured him that he would be safe aboard a storm-tossed ship? (Acts 27: 23-24)
3. Who led some officers of the chief priests to a late night call on Jesus? (John 18: 3, 12)
4. What Pharisee came to Jesus late at night? (John 3: 1-2)
5. Who med a man who engaged in an all-night wrestling match? (Genesis 32: 22-31)
6. Who came through Egypt on a late-night visit to almost every household? (Genesis 32: 22-31)
7. Where did shepherds receive angels as late visitors? (Luke 2: 8-16)
8. Who took Saul's spear after sneaking into his camp late one night? (1 Samuel 26: 7-12)
9. Who visited a medium at night? (1 Samuel 28: 8)
10. Who attached a Midianite camp late at night? (Judges 7: 19)

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

Sept/Oct Trivia Answers

1. What was given as a sign that the shepherds had found the baby Jesus? *Luke 2: 12 The swaddling clothes and manger*
2. What was given as a sign that God would not flood the earth again? *Genesis 9: 13-17 Rainbow*
3. What gift was given to Christians as a sign of God's power to unbelievers? *1st Corinthians 14:22 Tongues*
4. What day was a sign of completion and rest? *Exodus 31: 13 The Sabbath*
5. According to Jesus, what prophet's sign would be given to the unbelieving Jews? *Matthew 16: 4 Jonha's*
6. Who received a wet fleece as a sign of God's approval? *Judges 6: 36-38 Gideon*
7. Who prophesized a virgin conceiving a child as a sign of God's presence? *Isaiah 7: 14 Isaiah*
8. Who saw a "slow" sundial as a sign of Hezekiah's recovery from illness? *2 Kings 20: 8-11 Isaiah*
9. Who set up 12 stones as a sign of God's parting of the Jordan? *Joshua 4:6 Joshua*
10. What nation suffered 10 plagues that were signs of God's power? *Exodus 10: 2 Egypt*

****There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

****"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

****There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I

have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

****A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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Rev. Karen Hoff, Pastor

Sheryl Sindt, Secretary



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

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THE MEANING OF THE SYMBOLS

For the next few months we will highlight one of our beautiful stain glass windows located in the entryway. This month we will highlight the *Hand of God*.

The hand is the most ancient symbol of the first person in the Godhead. It represents the creative power of God.

Scripture references: Psalm 139: 7-10

Proverbs 1:24 – "I have stretched out my hand

Ecclesiastes 9:1 -- their deeds are in the hand of God

Acts 7:55 -- refers to Jesus standing at right hand of God. The hand points downward from a cloud of glory and is surrounded by a nimbus with three rays, known as a tri-radiant nimbus, which always signifies divinity.

*Thanks to Ward Young for the above info.

See us at:

Web page: www.oaklandiaumc.org

Facebook.com/oakiamethchurch



College Addresses

If you have a student heading to college and they do not receive this newsletter, please forward their address to us. We would love to keep in touch. Or if they will have a change of address please let us know