

the grapevine

February 2012 | Monthly Newsletter of Oxford United Methodist Church



Mark your calendars:

2-3

Kid's Night Out @ 6 pm

2-6

Trustees @ 6:30 and SPRC @ 7 pm

2-11

Valentine's Dinner Dance @ 6:30 pm

2-19

Miracle Sunday

2-21

Pancake Supper @ 5:30 pm

2-22

Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:15 pm

2-23

Lent begins

2-24 & 25

30-Hour Famine

Miracle Sunday

First Fruits

The budget approved by the Church Council on January 23, included a recommendation that we, as a faith family, conduct a "Miracle Sunday" campaign, culminating on Sunday, February 19 with a special above-and-beyond collection to pay our apportionments in full.

The Finance Committee proposed this step for a number of reasons outlined below.

First and foremost—it was felt that paying our apportionments, our gift as a church to God and the greater church should be our highest priority in 2012. A little history: After having paid our apportionments in full for a number of years, in 2010 due to financial constraints we were unable to do so, paying only 57%. In 2011, even with a plan we hoped would bring us back to fulfilling this goal, we still missed the mark only paying 73%.

It was therefore the belief that we had to have a specific plan for accomplishing this responsibility in 2012. After all, we ask our members to be faithful to their pledges, gifts, and tithes, giving their first fruits. How can we as a faith family do anything less? We believe that many of you feel the same way, and will feel called to making a gift beyond your pledge or plan in support of this specific purpose.

Continued on page 2...

Fellowship Craft Nights

The ladies fellowship/craft nights for this year are as follows: March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, Sept. 18 and Oct. 16th. Each of those evenings we will meet together at 6:30pm - 8:30 pm to share in a time of fellowship. Bring any craft project you may be working on or just come and visit with those gathered! Light refreshments will be served and a time of prayer and devotion will end our evening together. Come share fun times shared with your friends at Oxford! For more info contact Teri Boldt at teri@oxfordumc.org



Women's Retreat 2012 January 20-22 in Comfort, Texas



*Zumba Classes
Monday Evenings at 6:30 pm
Childcare provided
For more information
contact Michelle Carey at
michelle@oxfordumc.org*

Miracle Sunday Continued ...

The process of a Miracle Sunday also has several pluses to offer. The results will be known early in the budget year, so that any adjustment needed can be done expeditiously. Likewise, unlike a second pledge campaign, the results will be clear right away. This will also allow an opportunity, through a period of short talks during worship and various other church communications, to educate some newer United Methodists on just what apportionments are and why they are crucial to our identity as a church.

We acknowledge that this is a challenging goal. Our apportioned share for 2012 is \$54,000. It might even seem impossible to some. But our God calls us to dream big, pray hard, and trust always. Can you image the impact it will have on us, if we are faithful in this task, and are able to say at the end of February "we have given our first fruits, now let us be about the seeing how much more we can do?" We invite you to catch the vision and join us in this endeavor.

2012 Budget Approved

The Church Council met on Tuesday, January 24th, to consider the Finance Committee's proposed 2012 General Budget. After an extensive look at the financial results of 2011, and the needs for 2012, the Church Council voted unanimously to approve the Finance Committee's motion. Some major points:

- Refinancing of the loan on the new sanctuary.
- Creating a new grouping of accounts to better capture and manage IT needs at the church.
- Celebrating A Miracle Sunday (See cover story for greater details) from which all giving will go to paying apportionments (for more on apportionments read Dave's blog)
- Finishing repaying the loan to ourselves.

Tom Jackson, the new Finance Chair, Dave Sygeel, the Financial Secretary, or any of the other Finance Committee members welcome any questions you might have about this year's budget and the process used in its development. For those who desire more information about the budget, a complete, detailed copy is posted in the Education Building. Copies are also available in the church office, or can be e-mailed by request.

Pastor's Perspective —

Good Housekeeping magazine listed the five most-common things guests notice when they enter our homes. First, they spy piles of mail laying around, so keep an empty drawer in the kitchen for your correspondence. Second, they notice dust bunnies and cobwebs, so watch those room corners and use a broom and a hand vacuum. Third, they notice a messy bathroom, so use glass cleaner for the mirror and other handy clean-up aids for the floors and appliances. Fourth, they notice dishes in the sink. Avoid embarrassment here by throwing them in the dishwasher. Or, if needed, rinse and place them in the oven. Fifth, our guests notice full trash cans, so empty any filled container into a larger receptacle that can be kept out of sight.*

I wonder what our guests notice when they visit our church on Sunday mornings? I suppose they notice whether our facility is clean and well-maintained. Church growth experts tell us that they notice whether there are people like them present. Undoubtedly they notice the music, worship, and preaching. And, of course, they notice whether or not we are friendly and welcoming to them. Sometimes we have to quit talking to a friend for just a bit to go and talk with the visitor (you know I had never thought of it in these terms before, but though we have been calling visitors “guests” for some while, the member is actually to be the visitor, that is, to “visit” with the guest.) But there’s another thing that people may notice about our church. Many will be very interested in knowing whether or not our church is involved in the wider community. After all, why be involved in a church that’s not doing much out there in the world?

What kind of impression are we giving to guests and to the community around us. Can they see us as “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14-16)?

Much love,
Pastor John

*I got this illustration from Preachingtoday.com (a service I subscribe to.) It had been submitted by Ted De Haas of Bedford, Iowa and came from "Five Things People Really Notice," *Good Housekeeping* (November 2006), p. 42



Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday Worship is Wednesday, February 22 at 6:15 pm in the sanctuary. We will have the imposition of ashes. Come early for the Wednesday night fellowship supper at 5:30 pm. Wednesday night Lenten Services and our Lenten study will begin Wednesday, February 29. We will study Adam Hamilton's 24 Hours That Changed

The World.” Our Lenten Worship services will go from 6:15 pm—7 pm and the Lenten Study will be from 7 pm—8 pm. Both will be held in the Family Life Center. Take advantage of these opportunities for spiritual growth. For more info contact Michelle Carey at michelle@oxfordumc.org



Prayer List

Praying for one another is a privilege we take very seriously. But, as our list is growing and growing, please advise us when a name should be removed from the list. Names will remain on the list for one month and will be renewed at your request. Send your praise reports to our Prayer Ministry Leader Marty Donohue at marthadonohue@sbcglobal.net
Thanks

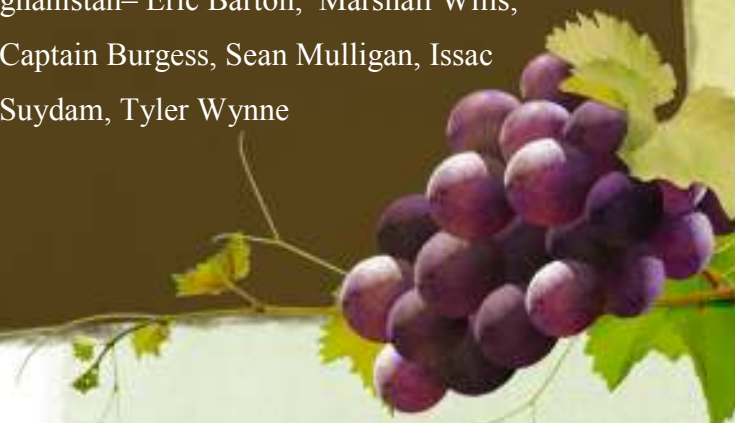
Our World
Our service men & women
Our nation & its leaders
Our Bishop & all clergy
Oxford UMC staff & volunteers
St. Mary's Indian Orthodox Church
The residents at the Heights
Elfrida Beyer
Rick Barrett
Darven Propp
Veronica's birthday
Elsie Young
Ms. Yubi's mother
Paul Albretske
Margaret Culton
Evalya Flake
Kay & George Dawson
Family health & healing
Eileen and Peter
Kendall & J.R.
Teresa Fields
Erin Fields
Gabby & Lydia
Amber
Moms health
Solomon's work
Zara for healing & Michael for a job
Katie
Robert & Erin Fields
Amanda & Andy Boshan
Richard
Kristi Forister's Birthday
Austin & Aaron
Amanda Bostian

Genie Dudley
Barbara Fillinger
Gina
Evelyn Klein family
Jaysen & Jessica Clements
Kathy, Roger Ward
Rick Dennis
Isaiah Apolivar
Family of Alex Alexander on his passing
Del
Terry
Margaret Brown
Evelyn Decker
Linda Mustain
Wesley, Aly, Trinity & baby Ian
Grandpa Galvan
Bonnie Capanna
Ray Werner
Aunt Myrtle
Lois & Frank Kish
Jerry & Cary Hamer
Barbara Maxwell
Patrick
Marshall Wills
Karen Stewart & family
Scott Sullivan
Josh, Heather & Page
Marisa
Lenore
David Barr
Jean Louise
Lydia
Leonarda Tracy
Warren Ward
Thelma & Jim Barnes
Taylor & Fabian
Carlos & Sandra & girls
John
Jesse Hamilton
Audrey Wisher
Dale Viets
Nora

Pray for our Military

All active military service men and women throughout the world.

Afghanistan-- Eric Barton, Marshall Wills, Captain Burgess, Sean Mulligan, Issac Suydam, Tyler Wynne



Linda Jones
Uncle Dan DelaCerde
Morales Family
Anthony, Mary Ann
Brook Van Natta
Moises
The Berndsen family
Brooklyn Martinez
Dot Mount
Mike
Sue
Charles Keirum
Janie Martinez
Ray Record
Felicia & Jason Washington & family
Ray & Dorothy Wills
Jordan, Whitney, Dustin, Joshua & Kayla
The Parnell family
Anthony Gonzales
Little Hailey
Michael Stine
Mattie Pruski
Rose Cervantes
Kayla Boucher
Jan
Anne Lee
Matt, Monica, & premature baby girl
Bernice & Lance
Betty & John Krepelka
Donald Green
Sandy Martinez
Catherine Woytek
Margaret Thornton
Ms. Lydia's family on the passing of her baby niece



BEQUEST MONEY UPDATE

Have you noted any changes around the Oxford campus recently? After months of working out how we could best use the \$110,000 earmarked by the Church Council for ministry needs that were achievable with current church budget realities, we have begun to make the approved purchases and improvements. The Education Building restrooms were one of the first and perhaps most noticeable projects to date. There is also the new laminate floor in the nursery—it looks sharp! One hundred new chairs (the white ones you see around) have dramatically increased our ability to host events without moving chairs from building to building as one function ends and another begins. A purchase of new fiberglass tables had much the same effect as well as allowing us to dispose of the most worn of the 18 year-old (and very heavy) fiberboard ones.

If you have visited the playground lately, you will see new equipment, better playground surfaces, and utilization of two areas with different age-appropriate designs. We have begun to install the wall-mounted flat-screen televisions that the Discipleship team needed to upgrade the quality of our educational offerings. After doing a major remodeling job on their own, the youth are also receiving some much needed equipment upgrades.

There is still much to go. The permits for the new digital sign are being pulled. The LED section has been shipped. Installation will begin shortly, and all should be fully functional by the middle of February. Still to be done is some landscaping work. Another project that will be accomplished before spring is the purchase of an AED (automated external defibrillator, training in its use, and updated first aid kits in every building. There are probably a few things that have I have missed so you need to keep your eyes open! Exciting things are happening at your faith home!

SOUND SYSTEM UPDATE

First of all, I'd like to thank God for the person who bequeathed the monies to Oxford, which affords us the opportunity to improve our worship experience.

Here's what has been done already:

Most sound absorption panels installed (Thanks to Jonathan Lane, Mitch Thibodeaux, Billy Ivens, Paul Peterson, and Jim Hinkel for their expertise)

All circuitry of the sound system has been checked and repaired as needed.

New choir mics installed

New mixing console installed

New low profile "on chancel" monitoring system installed

New cable management system initiated

Here's what is left to be done:

Install more sound absorption panels

Install new low profile main speaker system

Install enhanced lighting

Install new cabling for video projection system

In house training on aspects of sound mixing

I'd also like to thank the members of Oxford UMC for their support and patience during this process. God's up to something here at Oxford. I don't know about you, but I'm excited!

Pat Carey Contemporary Music Director (Sound System Project Manager)

YOUTH! 30-HOUR FAMINE AND CROP WALK NEWS

The Oxford YOUTH! will once again participate in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine where, they go without eating for 30 hours so that others can, February 26-27. This year's CROP Walk, which supports hunger needs locally and beyond, will be happen Saturday March 11. In support of these two ministries, the Oxford YOUTH will conduct their annual Souperbowl Sunday Collection after both services on February 5. They will also be holding their annual Baked Goods/Soup/Flowers and More sale 9:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. the same day. All proceeds from these two events will be divided equally between these two ministries.

How Can You Support our YOUTH! in This Vital Effort?

Sponsor them for their Famine participation

Remember these events

Most of all, pray for their success in reaching out to those who desperately need help

P.S. CROP Walk participants are all ages, so you can look for little kids to seasoned adults to sponsor them on their walk. Or, you could walk and gather sponsors yourself!





Valentine's Dinner Dance

The annual Valentine's Dinner Dance will be on Saturday, February 11, 2012 from 6:30 pm—10 pm in the De King Fellowship Center. There will be fun, delicious food, and dancing.

Tickets are available now! Singles—\$10 and Couples—\$20

This event is sponsored by the Oxford UMC Men's Ministry for ticket information contact the church office or visit the Men's ministry table in the narthex on Sunday mornings.



Theron Boyer 2/1	Felix Solis 2/12	Holly Grothues 2/23
Kim Zavala 2/1	Doris Campbell 2/17	Barney Tearney 2/25
Camille Smith 2/2	Chelsea Holloman 2/17	
Lisa Holloman 2/5	Bernice Steubing 2/5	
Charlene McGuire 2/7	Jennifer Hoffer 2/22	
Sabrina Shelburn 2/8	Gillian Ryan 2/22	
Dominique Vargas 2/11	Ben Cole 2/23	
Juana Martinez 2/11	Steve Curtis 2/23	
Patti Ingram 2/12	Frank Faulkner 2/23	

New Members

Please welcome:

Dr. Leslie Kvapil joined on Sunday, January 15 at the 11:30 am service

Rob Fields joined on Sunday, January 22 at the 11:30 am service

Dennis and Sue Moses joined on Sunday, January 22 at the 9:15 am service

Worship Attendance

January 1
 9:30 a.m.94
 11:30 a.m. 75
 Nursery 4
 Children's Church...7
 Other n/a
 Total.....180
 Sunday School.....78

January 8
 9:30 a.m.109
 11:30 a.m.96
 Nursery 5
 Children's Church ...8
 Othern/a
 Total 208
 Sunday School91

January 15
 9:30 a.m.125
 11:30 a.m.101
 Nursery4
 Children's Church...10
 Othern/a
 Total240
 Sunday School87

January 22
 9:30 a.m.103
 11:30 a.m.78
 Nursery.....3
 Children's Church.....11
 Other27
 Total222
 Sunday School..106

January 29
 9:30 a.m. ...
 11:30 a.m. ...
 Nursery...
 Children's Church.....
 Other..... n/a
 Total.....
 Sunday School...

Financials

Projected January Need..... \$40,000

Received

January 1, 2012..... \$ 7,926

January 8, 2012..... \$ 8,827

January 15, 2012..... \$ 5,698

January 22, 2012..... \$ 8,264

January 29, 2012..... \$

Total Received in January..... \$

2011 Actual Results

Income:.....\$418,618

Expenditures.....\$416,957

2011 Surplus.....\$ 1,661

NWSA Emmaus/Chrysalis News

Northwest Hills United Methodist Church located at 7575 Tezel, SAT 78250 will host the NWSA Emmaus/Chrysalis Gathering on February 17, 6:45 pm. If you haven't attended a Gathering for a while, this is an excellent opportunity to remember your Walk to Emmaus. If you have not gone on a Walk, please consider coming to the Emmaus Gathering to learn more about this memorable spiritual experience. All are invited to attend the fellowship afterwards. Children and guests are always welcome. Food agape for the fellowship is appreciated.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 21 at 5:30 pm in the De King Fellowship Center Gym. There will be a delicious feast of pancakes and more! This event is sponsored by the Oxford United Methodist Women. A Love Offering will be accepted and will go towards the mission projects of the UMW. Please make plans to attend.

W A L K T O E M M A U S

Have you considered attending a Walk to Emmaus weekend? Walk to Emmaus is a special journey with Christ. The Bible story given in Luke 24:13-35 is a near perfect setting for our modern day walks. Who should go? Emmaus is open to members of any Christian denomination who have a desire to strengthen their spiritual lives, who are members of a local church, and who may have unanswered questions about their faith and how it affects their personal lives.

What happens on an Emmaus weekend? You will enjoy three days of singing, learning, laughing, worshiping, reflecting, praying and participating in small groups. Discussions center around 15 talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community, and how it expresses itself in the real world. After your walk you are invited to have a closer walk with Christ for the rest of your life. You will have opportunities to meet with other Christians in a small group setting each week, and in larger gatherings less often to share your life experiences with other Christians who are there to also share their own lives, and to help each other through tough times and through fun times.

Each walk is for men only or women only. Most walks from the Northwest San Antonio Fourth Day Emmaus Group are held at Mt Wesley in Kerrville. The Southwest Texas Conference has been doing Emmaus walks for about 30 years. It is a strong ministry now with over 1600 walks for those years. Walk to Emmaus can be a very heart warming and inspirational experience. I encourage you to find out more. If you would like more information, please talk to anyone who has previously attended an Emmaus walk. Many of Oxford's church members and leaders have attended. Pastor John has also been extensively involved in Emmaus and can give you more insight into the program.

Women's walk #1656 is coming up on April 19-22 at Mt Wesley. Men's walk #1688 is scheduled for Nov 8-11, 2012. There are other walks available also. A schedule of walks is on the Conference website shown below. I encourage men and women from Oxford to consider signing up. All you need is a sponsor, which is someone who has attended a walk before.

If you would like to read an introductory booklet about Emmaus or wish more information, please contact Gary Barr, our church lay leader. You can also check the following websites for more information:

www.umcswtx.org (click on Walk to Emmaus)
<http://upperroom.org/emmaus/default.asp> (click on the short video for an introduction)

Blessings, Gary Barr (Lay Leader)

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Rosana Orr
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Custodian

Jose Moya

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Breakfast at 8:00 am
Traditional Worship at 9:15 am

Sunday School for all ages at 10:30 am
ELEVATE Contemporary Worship at 11:30 am

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday 9 am—4 pm
Friday 9 am—12 noon