

SEPTEMBER 2019 Newsletter

Oakhurst United Methodist Church

PASTOR'S PEN DID YOU KNOW?



The Kingdom of God (KOG) is one of the top two or three most fascinating subjects in the Bible. It is right up there with the miracles and the resurrection of Jesus. The KOG is mentioned 68 times in the Bible, and all of them in the New Testament. One of the things that makes it so interesting is that it is spoken about by Jesus and by the apostles somewhat interchangeably with the term Kingdom of Heaven (KOH), and sometimes it is spoken about as an earthly kingdom as the KOG on Earth (KOGOE). I am interested in going to Heaven some day, but I am most interested in the KOGOE. I don't want to wait for Heaven or for the second coming of Christ for the evils of human kind to be done away with.

Jesus said some interesting things about the KOGOE in Mark 4:26 – 32(NLT) we read:

“The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. 27Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. 28The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. 29And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.” 30Jesus said, “How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? 31It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, 32but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade.”

From this passage, we get the idea of the KOGOE growing slowly, inexorably, until it finally takes its place as most important. We see that same kind of thought expressed by Jesus in another parable in Luke 13, “20And again he said, “To what should I compare the kingdom of God? 21It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” Again, the idea of a slow but steady spread.

Jesus also seems undeniably to be speaking about the KOG being OE, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power” (Mark 9:1, NRSV). Also, Luke 17:20-21 “Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you” (NKJV).

Interestingly, even though the KOG is mostly a New Testament concept, it is in the Old Testament that we get the clearest idea of what the KOGOE it might look like.

Micah 4:1-4 (NLT) In the last days, the mountain of the LORD's house will be the highest of all — the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. People from many nations will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths.” For the LORD's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem. The LORD will mediate between peoples and will settle disputes between strong nations far away. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore. Everyone will live in peace and prosperity, enjoying their own grapevines and fig trees, for there will be nothing to fear. The LORD of Heaven's Armies has made this promise!

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NLT) The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine ...5 The boots of the warrior and the uniforms blood-stained by war will all be burned. They will be fuel for the fire. For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

My understanding of the Kingdom of God on Earth is that Christ has given us everything that we need to bring in the rule of God on earth – his teachings and the Holy Spirit. Obviously, if the whole world agreed to follow his teachings and be guided by the Holy Spirit, then the visions of the prophets Micah and Isaiah would be accomplished. Since we could do it with the teachings of Jesus and the help of the Holy Spirit, why in the world would we expect that God will do it for us? I think it is bad theology to expect that God will bring in the kingdom for us. It is as likely to me that God will bring the kingdom in for us as it is to think: if I sit on my couch and pray for it, God will bring me a soda out of the refrigerator. If God won't do for us little things we can do for ourselves, how much less will he do big things we can do for ourselves?

In His Grace, Pastor Tim

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

September 1 (SUNDAY)

COMMUNION

8:15am Light Breakfast
8:45am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Adult SS
10:00am Children's SS
10:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult SS

September 2 (MONDAY)

LABOR DAY CHURCH CLOSED

5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:15pm Boy Scouts

September 3 (TUESDAY)

6:30pm AA Big Book Study
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol

September 4 (WEDNESDAY)

1:00pm Wonderful Wednesdays
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:00pm Joy Band Practice
7:00pm UMW Unit Mtg
8:00pm AA, Alanon Meeting

September 5 (THURSDAY)

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
7:00pm Choir Practice

September 6 (FRIDAY)

8:30am Suncoast Sandpipers
6:00pm Girl Scouts 1223

September 7 (SATURDAY)

8:00pm AA Big Book Study

September 8 (SUNDAY)

8:15am Light Breakfast
8:45am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Adult SS
10:00am Children's SS
10:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult SS

September 9 (MONDAY)

5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:15pm Boy Scouts

September 10 (TUESDAY)

6:30pm AA Big Book Study
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol
7:00pm Missions Meeting

September 11 (WEDNESDAY)

10:30am Mary/Martha
1:00pm Wonderful Wednesdays
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:00pm Finance Meeting
7:00pm Joy Band Practice
8:00pm AA, Alanon Meeting

September 12 (THURSDAY)

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
10:00am Mea Vita Dr Cate
3:00pm Each One Teach One
6:00pm Street Ministry
7:00pm Choir Practice

September 13 (FRIDAY)

September 14 (SATURDAY)

8:00pm AA Big Book Study

September 15 (SUNDAY)

8:15am Light Breakfast
8:45am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Adult SS
10:00am Children's SS
10:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult SS

September 16 (MONDAY)

5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:00pm Trustees Meeting
7:15pm Boy Scouts

September 17 (TUESDAY)

6:30pm AA Big Book Study
7:00pm Worship Committee
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol

September 18 (WEDNESDAY)

1:00pm Wonderful Wednesdays
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:00pm Joy Band Practice
8:00pm AA, Alanon Meeting

September 19 (THURSDAY)

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
3:00pm Each One Teach One
7:00pm Choir Practice

September 20 (FRIDAY)

6:00pm Girl Scouts 1223

September 21 (SATURDAY)

8:00am UMW Gulf Central Mission
8:00pm AA Big Book Study

September 22 (SUNDAY)

8:15am Light Breakfast
8:45am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Adult SS
10:00am Children's SS
10:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult SS

September 23 (MONDAY)

5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:15pm Boy Scouts

September 24 (TUESDAY)

6:00pm Street Ministry
6:30pm AA Big Book
7:00pm Civil Air Patrol
7:00pm Joy Circle

September 25 (WEDNESDAY)

10:00am UMW Leadership
1:00pm Wonderful Wednesdays
5:00pm Tai Chi Class
6:00pm Street Ministry
7:00pm Joy Band Practice
8:00pm AA, Alanon Meeting

September 26 (THURSDAY)

8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
3:00pm Each One Teach One
7:00pm Choir Practice

September 27 (FRIDAY)

September 28 (SATURDAY)

8:00pm AA Big Book Study

September 29 (SUNDAY)

8:15am Light Breakfast
8:45am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Adult SS
10:00am Children's SS
10:00am Traditional Worship
11:00am Coffee Fellowship
11:30am Adult SS

September 30 (MONDAY)

5:00pm Tai Chi Class
7:15pm Boy Scouts



Congregational Care Ministries

In life, we encounter no shortage of emergencies. Each day shares with us enough worry to fill our waking hours. In the Scriptures, we read about God's promise, love, and faithfulness. Over 300 times, the Bible tells us not to fear. Yet uncertainty and fear, in particular about the future, occupy much of our time, if we're honest. The question is not whether or not we will worry about tomorrow, but what to do about such worry. Rev. Dr. L. Roger Owens writes in this month's piece a particularly piercing post delving into how we pray through uncertainty about the future. Whether this uncertainty stems from relationships, health, finances, or occupation, these root causes all share the common need for prayer. I invite you to reflect this month along with Rev. Dr. Owens how we can best practice praying for ourselves and others in times of worry and uncertainty in a way that faithfully reflects the grace and mercy of Christ.

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan, Associate Pastor

UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE

The Rev. Dr. L. Roger Owens, Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality and Ministry

A spouse says, "I need to talk to you, and you'd better sit down for this." A physician calls and invites you to come in to discuss your recent medical tests. A manager summons you into her office in the midst of a downsizing at your workplace. Each of these conversations can render what you thought was a stable, predictable future suddenly uncertain. And congregations are filled with people for whom unexpected events and unwelcome news are throwing well-ordered lives into chaos. Remember also: Every future is uncertain. And some spiritual traditions have found ways to embrace the uncertainty of everyday life.

For example, the ancient Celts had a tradition of viewing life as a *perigrinatio*—a journey with no firm destination. They viewed life as a journey of discovery as one walked with God into the unpredictable. Sometimes Celtic Christians would set out on a journey in a small boat called a *coracle*—a vessel with no rudder, sails, or oars—to travel wherever the waves of the sea and the Spirit of God led.

That image of sailing in a *coracle* provides a wonderful metaphor for life. Every day, when your feet hit the floor and slide into your slippers, and you shuffle into the kitchen to pour the coffee, you are already in a *coracle*, the Celtic tradition teaches—on an adventure into an unknown future, however known the journey seems, however well-planned the day. The Celtic notion of life as a journey invites a shift in perspective: each moment becomes a fresh, fathomless mystery, a wave we've never ridden, a surf we've never sailed. A boat never travels the same river twice. Every future is uncertain.

Yes, Christian leaders find themselves praying with people for whom specific events have upended plans, and pastors are first and foremost teachers of prayer. But one of the chief pastoral tasks is to help every person under one's care learn to discover that all our futures are uncertain. And then to live life accordingly—abandoned to God in trust.

So whether you find yourself ministering to a person who's received a new diagnosis of cancer, or a new retiree with a well-planned next decade, here are some points to keep in mind as you pray with and instruct that person in the practice of prayer: Pray to embrace the uncertainty. Uncertainty is not something to run from—in fact, we can't escape it. So we can pray that, in whatever our circumstance, the Spirit of God will help us to loosen our grip on our imagined sense of control and accept the uncertainty of our lives.

Pray for the grace to trust God's loving presence. Only one thing is certain—that God's unfailing, loving presence will never leave us. I can't imagine anything more important than praying to God to give the grace to trust God's loving, sustaining presence in each moment—whatever that moment entails.

Pray to learn to receive the present as a gift. Even as we learn to embrace an uncertain future and grow in our trust of God's loving presence, we can also ask God to give us the grace to receive the present moment as a gift. Our futures may be uncertain, but the present is here—often full of beauty and joy and love. But we can miss the present because our fear too often fixates on the future. And even when the present offers pain, sorrow, and tragedy, we can ask to glimpse more clearly the ways God is with us.

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Congregational Care Ministries

Continued

PRAYER CONCERNS



Finally, we can pray to stay faithful on the journey. Even when facing an uncertain future, we are still called to love as God loves, offer hope when we can, and serve our neighbors. As we walk into the future, we can ask to be given the grace to continue to love others, offer grace, and extend care. We can ask to share God’s love with open hearts and generous spirits, whenever the future opens possibilities for such love.

Our congregants have requested that these people be lifted up in prayer, so please add them to your prayer list.

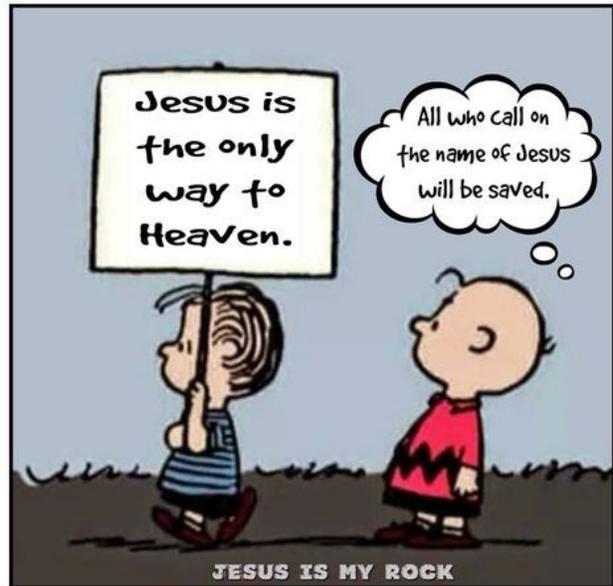
Thomas Merton offers a well-known prayer that begins, “My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.” That prayer names the condition for each one of us. Some know this uncertainty acutely—life’s events have made clear how dubious the future can be. Others of us, who think our futures are sure, who believe we are in control of how it will end, need to learn the truth of this prayer.

Brian Bavaro
Colette Box

Whichever group one is in, we can always pray that God will help us acknowledge and accept the uncertainty of our lives, grow our trust in God’s loving presence, receive the gift of life in this moment as a gift of grace, and continue to serve others in love as we ride our little coracles into the unknown, upheld all the while by God’s infinite love.

Merton ends his prayer by expressing the trust we might all aspire to as we face the unknown: “Therefore I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

Gracious God, each day we awaken not knowing what the future will hold. Help us to let go of our need to control the future, so that we might be open to your grace and presence in each moment. When uncertainty causes us to worry, may we know the certainty of your love. And may what we learn as we face the unknown help us to open ourselves in love to others who fear the future. Amen.





National Immunization Awareness Month

National Immunization Awareness Month is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of vaccinations for people of all ages. In August, everyone is encouraged to check their immunization records to see if any immunizations are needed and make arrangements to get those immunizations. Are your immunizations up to date? Hepatitis A? Tetanus? Flu/Pneumovax? Shingles? Visit cdc.gov/vaccines to determine which immunizations are needed for your age group, Gardening this summer? Whether you're new to gardening or have a green thumb, remember to keep your health and safety a priority. Did you know that gardeners can be prone to tetanus infections? Tetanus lives in the soil and enters the body through breaks in the skin, especially when using sharp tools, digging in the dirt, or handling plants with sharp points. Before you start gardening this season:

Make sure your tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccination is up-to-date.

Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D) generally covers shots needed to prevent illness. Contact your Medicare drug plan for more information about coverage.

Use a good set of gardening gloves, which can help lower the risk irritations and cuts.

For more information contact Medicare.gov.

Ask your doctor which of the following shots you may need:

Pneumococcal (pneumonia)

Influenza

Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis B

Human papillomavirus (HPV)

Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Whooping cough)

Varicella-Zoster (Chicken pox-Shingles)

Meningococcal (Meningitis, bacteremia and septicemia)

Polio

See cdc.gov/vaccines

Youth Group

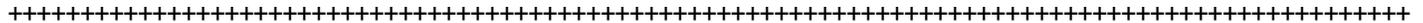


Youth Group Happenings

Youth Group has resumed for the school year. If you would like to volunteer to work with the youth of our congregation, please contact me at ncarlson@oakhurstumc.com or call the church office at 727-391-4769. If you know of a youth who would benefit from this sort of gathering, please direct them to get in touch with me for up to date meeting times and locations through contacting me at the same information as previously mentioned.

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan, Youth Pastor and Assistant Pastor



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Apportionments

Apportionment Categories and Current 2019 Status

The Total 2019 OUMC Apportionment amount due at the end of December = \$62,477.00

The current actual dollar amount of apportionments paid through July = \$31,566.52

Current % of 2019 apportionments paid through July, 2019 = 50.53% (5 of 13 at 100% paid!)

\$4,160.31 paid in July to Florida Conf. = \$3200 (Budget allotment) + \$960.31 (Individual giving)

The Categories of the **General Church Apportionments** funds:

World Service Fund – **Paid 100% (\$9978.00)**

Episcopal Fund – **Paid 100% (\$2955.00)**

Interdenominational Fund - **Paid 100% (\$264.00) (Paid by Missions Committee)**

General Administration Fund – **OWE \$1185.00**

Ministerial Education Fund – **OWE \$3370.00**

Black College Fund - **OWE \$1344.00**

Africa University Fund –**OWE \$301.00**

Jurisdictional Administration Fund – **OWE \$202.00**

The Categories of the **Florida Conference and Gulf Central District Apportionments** funds:

Clergy Support – **Paid 100% (\$6682.00)**

Conf Services and Admin Fund – **Paid 100% (\$5466.00)**

GC District Work Fund – **OWE \$9795.00, Paid \$3,110.77 (31.76%)**

Conference Benevolences –**OWE \$17,701.00, Paid \$3,110.75 (17.57%)**

Equitable Compensation/Mission Support – **OWE \$3,234.00**

Praise God! \$8,470.00 was pledged by 10 congregational members for their support of apportionment funds in 2019 and \$5,167.50 has been collected (61%). Also, additional recorded individual donations by 51 members (and non-members) has increased our fund raising collections by \$4589.05 so far this year.

Thank you for all of your apportionment fund pledges and donations for 2019. We have made good progress in 2019. Mark an envelope for APPORTIONMENT giving. Please join me in our responsibility to God to support all of our church's connectionalism. Amen. Rick Jacobson.

TRUSTEES

Trustees Update

We apologize for the ongoing lack of AC for the Foundry worship service. Two of the three AC's have been repaired in the Sanctuary. The third AC which cools the indented bank of seating on the East, the Narthex and the restrooms, has to be completely replaced. We are waiting on an estimate. We have the equipment to finally rebuild the Foundry first floor AC and repair will begin shortly. The Foundry kitchen AC was repaired. The Foundry AC that cools the upstairs classrooms has a freon leak which we now know is not coming from the underground pipes. Due to lack of AC in the Foundry the majority of LIFT classes have been moved to the Fellowship Hall and West wing until the repairs are completed. We are still holding off repairs on the semi-working Fellowship Hall AC until the other AC's are repaired. Again, thank you to all who have been able to contribute to the AC repairs. We can't thank you enough!

Please do not park under the huge Oak tree in front of the Sanctuary as it is not safe. It has a fatal disease that will not only kill this tree but can spread to our other trees. We are gathering quotes for its removal.

With all these things hitting our budget, I've been asked why we are purchasing an electronic sign. Please know purchasing an electronic sign has been brought up and discussed and researched for many years by many of our church leaders, committee members, and church members. Purchase was approved by our Finance Committee, Trustees, and Church Administrative Council which is comprised of the chairs of each of our church committees. Research has shown that electronic signs do attract attention and bring people into various establishments and churches more than a stationary sign. We will be able to advertise our church's service times, usual events, special events, etc., including pictures, which the old sign doesn't have room to do; the old sign's acrylic is stained beyond repair; it is very outdated and the new sign may show we are trying to be more modernized to attract more young people to keep our church alive, growing with families and moving ahead in the years to come. Funds for this sign do not come out of our operating budget. The funds are strictly from bequests and donations specifically designated by the donors for this sign. Please feel free to talk to Pastor Tim or Emma Dobies, if you have questions or concerns.

Emma Dobies, Chair, Board of Trustees

GARDEN ANGELS: Our Garden Angels cannot be thanked enough for the amazing job they consistently do planting flowers, trimming hedges, weeding, mulching, and keeping our grounds looking inviting and beautiful all year long. This is not part of our maintenance man's responsibility nor the lawn company we use. We do still have areas needing some TLC and Garden Angels. Some areas are small and only require weeding, some hedge trimming, and if anyone desires to plant flowers, even better. It's a great stress reliever and very rewarding volunteer job with results enjoyed by everyone. Even if you are able to put your name down to be a substitute Garden Angel would be helpful when our Garden Angels need a break or take vacations. Or, if you just want to stop by and pull some weeds as and when you have time, feel welcome to do so, every little bit helps!

Contact Emma Dobies, if interested (727-391-2264).



OUR MISSIONS



Cuba Trip!

Want to visit our sister church in Cuba? It is important to strengthen humanitarian ties especially in this time of travel restrictions. Our mission team from Oakhurst UMC travels under the “religious activities license” that enables travel to Cuba. People from Oakhurst who have been to Cuba testify that visiting our Cuban brothers and sisters in Christ to provide supplies and encouragement (just like Paul did to the early churches) is important and uplifting for us and our sister church.

Oakhurst is planning to take a mission team there in the fall. There are two possible opportunities.

The dates of the earlier trip is not firm yet, but will be the last week of September or the first week in October. Dawn Curtis will be a leader of this trip.

The second opportunity to visit our sister church in Cuba is traveling with the Methodists United in Prayer Team (Oakhurst UMC is a part of this group)

October 31 to November 5.

The individual expenses for either trip will be approximately \$350 (for visas and airfare) plus room and food costs.

There has been a lot of media over the last few days over the travel restrictions for Cuba. U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor from Tampa said she encourages ‘churches, universities and arts organizations to continue to build ties between the American people and the Cuban people.’ Join the Oakhurst UMC mission team in our continued connection with our sister church in Colon, Cuba. If you are interested, or have any questions, contact Dawn Curtis or Gary Clairy. Applications are available in the church office.

SIERRA LEONE MISSION UPDATE

What a blessing it is to share about our call to be full-time missionaries with you! By the invitation of the Bishop of the United Methodist Church of Sierra Leone, Africa, we will be serving on an island just off the coast of Sierra Leone, Sherbro Island, beginning in 2021.

As we prepare to serve in Sierra Leone for 5 years, we will be visiting other churches, so unfortunately you may not see us at Oakhurst UMC every Sunday. Please pray for us as we visit other congregations asking for their support, too. It takes many church families to sustain us financially in the mission field for 5 years as full-time missionaries! We pray that you would also consider supporting us as we commit to serve in Africa. www.TMS-Global.org/GIVE Acct#3019.

Here's a quick overview of our ministry, but please let us know if you have ANY questions or speak with Pastor Tim or Pastor Nathan about us and our ministry, too. We love all of you and we thank you for your support, encouragement and prayers for our family!

Mainland Ministry:

In the small town of Bonthe on Sherbro Island, Nick (Civil Engineer) will be helping to restore community wells and boreholes and Heidi (Surgical Assistant) will be helping the local clinic with medical training and medical supply resources. Nick and Heidi will also be teaming with local pastors to strengthen and grow the local United Methodist Church.

Outreach Ministry:

Within the small fishing villages on the outskirts of Sherbro Island, Nick will be helping to repair and restore small wells and Heidi will be providing bush medicine and teaching basic hygiene. Nick and Heidi will also engage in discipleship and evangelism with local pastors within these primitive fishing villages.

Thank you for your support and prayers as we prepare to join Jesus in His mission across the ocean.

www.griffithsonmission.blogspot.org

All 4 Him,
Nick and Heidi Griffiths
404-323-3161



KENYA MISSION UPDATE

As most of you know, I returned August 2nd, from my fourth trip to Meru County, Kenya. I was there for three weeks this time and was there to work with Bishop Justus Miriti, Methodist Church of Kenya (MCK), Nkubu Synod in commencing work on the renovations to the donated buildings for the special school and home for the disabled children in the area. I also am working with him on a discipleship program and assisting with the church/school representation.

This time I was hosted by the Bishop personally and included in many wonderful services, prayer meetings and school meetings and called upon to speak at all events. It was a wonderful and blessed time to be able to share with this community. They are all excited to know that Oakhurst is partnering with them on this project and happy to know that the children with disabilities will begin to be empowered and that families will be educated as to their care.

The first week there I spent most of my time in the Synod office with the accounting clerk and taught him how to use an online accounting program I had set up and organized a filing system and ordering system for him to use. The Bishop opened a bank account specifically for Oakhurst and this project and we were able to balance the accounts to the bank account before I left which was very rewarding. I was taken out to the site this week too and introduced to the Disability Committee and the neighboring church elders who are assisting in overseeing the project. It was so exciting to actually be on the property after looking at the plans for the last couple months and to actually visualize where everything would be. The 2 acres of land are between a primary and secondary school (they both donated an acre each) and the primary school also donated the building to be the dormitory and 3 classrooms on the end of the school which will be walled off from the rest of the primary school.

We purchased some basic equipment like wheelbarrows, spades, hoses etc. ready for the builder and laborers to start work the second week I was there. They are working Monday to Saturday 8 hours a day and cost a little under \$250USD a week for the building team. They have now completed the dormitory apart from wiring to be done by an electrician. Two of the classrooms are completed and they commenced work on the third classroom August 15th. There are washrooms to be built as an addition to the dormitory building and this may have to wait until we receive more donations, as will the finishing of the buildings with tile and ceilings, light fixtures, beds, desks etc.

Classrooms



Dormitories/Disability Committee



First day on site with Bishop



BISHOP'S VISIT TO OAKHURST

Bishop Justus, will be here, God willing, in the middle of September for 2 weeks and during that time Missions will be putting on a Fundraiser covered dish dinner and presentation with updated photos and videos of the project. Bishop will be the key speaker and you will be able to meet him personally. He will also be preaching one of the Sunday's he is here. If you see him around in September please introduce yourself, he is very humble and full of God's love and will enjoy talking with you very much.

Thank you! again to all who have supported this project both spiritually and financially.

With His Grace, Deb Ralph



UMW FELLOWSHIP - Please note new evening time

UMW Fellowship returns **September 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Melissa Dohme Hall will speak on Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention.** Melissa was brutally attacked by her high school ex-boyfriend in 2012. After 32 stabbings to her face, neck, arms and hands - it is a true miracle that she is alive today. Following that horrific night, Melissa speaks out against domestic violence, she says "I know God saved me to share my story with other women hiding in silence". **Please join us, all are welcome!**

MISSION U - GULF CENTRAL DISTRICT

September 21, 2019, 8:30 –2:00pm in the **Foundry**, Oakhurst UMW is hosting the Gulf Central District Mission Study - Practicing Resurrection - Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship. Come and learn more about putting your faith in action!!



UMW Birthday Bash at Mission u

Del Lawson wrote and presented the poem titled '1869' (displayed on following page) for the UMW Birthday Bash at Mission u. Margaret Strickland, Gwen Mayfield and Lorraine Mayfield-Brown assisted in the performance to an audience of 500 people at the Florida Southern University.

OUR MISSION: TO FIND



SOMEONE TO BLESS TODAY!!

1869

By Delphine Lawson

*A gift of love and sacrifice,
A vision for us all
We stand upon the shoulders of
Those who came before.*

*Reaching to those on the fringe
Serving side by side
Not forgetting why we choose this
To bring Glory to His Name*

*We draw unto our Savior,
To seek His heart and mind
Diverse in all our nature
United by His Love*

*The legacy they left us
Of Justice and to serve
A covenantal community
A sisterhood of Grace.*

*We work to keep our connection
Through circles and events
Supporting Missions and Ministries
Our blessed purposes*

*To celebrate the 150 years
We walk the Beach to raise
An awareness of our community need
And what we can do to aid*

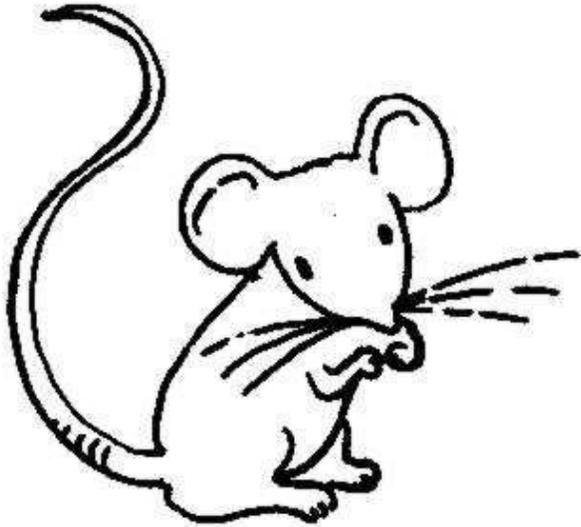
*No greater Love has any one
Than one who would lay down
To serve those whom the Lord has given us
To shine a light into the dark*

*And all of this because these few
Answered a personal call
To find their voice and speak for those
Who could not speak at all*

*As we remember why we are here
And search for greater things
We too can leave a legacy
Of good works in Jesus Name*

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Ramblings

from the Church Mouse

We have been very fortunate in this country to have had great leaders step forward to serve in times of crisis and need. Our history is full of great military leaders, prominent statesmen and energizing religious figures. Today I'd like to spotlight two persons from the latter two categories. Two men that helped form our Country in two very different ways.

George Whitefield and Benjamin Franklin; (our Nations original odd couple), both contributed greatly to the birth of our Nation. Whitefield, circuit riding, charismatic, evangelical preacher, and Franklin, Deist, inventor, publisher, diplomat and statesman - they managed to form a true and lasting friendship.

Whitefield was a contemporary of John and Charles Wesley. He was an original member of "The Holy Club". He worked his way through college as a servant for the wealthier students. Originally headed for an acting career he changed his course and studied to become an Anglican priest. Unlike Wesley, who had a sudden enlightenment at Aldersgate; Whitefield's conversion was gradual over several years.

Whitefield, like Wesley, was denied pulpits in England. He came to the Colonies to preach the Gospel in his own, unique, way. He preached outdoors. He preached of God's love as opposed to an academic theological message. He preached to the people instead of at the people. He pranced, he shouted. His nickname was "The Voice". He drew such large crowds none of the churches could accommodate a group of that size. He preached from Georgia, in the south to Boston, in the Northeast. It is said he would draw crowds numbering in the thousands when he preached. He preached salvation through the sacrifice and the love of Christ.

His reputation as a great orator drew the attention of Ben Franklin. Franklin, a Deist, was skeptical of Whitefield's ability to draw a crowd. He attended a service held in Philadelphia. When the collection was taken he emptied his pockets of all the money and donated. Although, he was impressed by the Preacher, he never converted. The two began a friendship that lasted until the death of Whitefield; September 30, 1770.

At a time when religious attendance was in a slump George Whitefield began the "Great Awakening" in the American Colonies. Whitefield never lived to see the birth of the United States; but he greatly influenced our claim to religious freedom. Whitefield is seldom mentioned in history classes, however, his biography presents a unique glimpse into the religious revival in the American Colonies.

*Courage does not always roar. Sometimes, it is the quiet voice
at the end of the day saying, "I will try again tomorrow".*

-Anonymous

In case you missed it...

Oakhurst UMC

welcomed
...in August



L to R (between our Pastors): Micheal Cox, Vicki Sandtner, Edwina Baker, Johnnie Tibbs

- Micheal Cox attends both services on Sunday mornings and is a semi-retired G.A. Food Service specialist. His hobbies include reading, collecting "Coke" items, and auto and drag racing.
- Vicki Sandtner joins us by Transfer from Manhattan Ave UMC in Tampa. She is a retired nurse who enjoys the outdoors, antiques, thrifting, watching old movies and the NFL.
- Edwina Baker is a retired teacher who's interests include reading, crafts and traveling. She is joining us by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Johnnie Tibbs joins us from Sulphur Grove UMC in Ohio. She is a retired secretary who enjoys cooking and crocheting.



- Beverly Rhyneanson is a retired teacher who enjoys traveling. She currently serves by vacuuming our Sanctuary each and every week.
- Arlene and Vince Brewer join us by transfer from First UMC in Clermont. Arlene is a Housewife and Vince is US Navy Retired
- Edwina Baker is a retired teacher who's interests include reading, crafts and traveling. She is joining us by Reaffirmation of Faith.



L to R (except our Pastors): Beverly Rhyneanson, Arlene and Vince Brewer



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