

The Oakleaf

Oakland Presbyterian Church, Oakland, Florida

December 2010/January 2011 • Number 10



**Sunday, December 5th
7:00 pm in the CLC**

Please be our guests as the Junior,
Carol and Angel Choirs present their
annual Christmas Musical
“Christmas Fever”



Sunday
December 12, 2010
**Lessons and Song
and Joy Tea**

Join us for the 11:00am worship
service of traditional Christmas
lessons and songs
followed by the Joy Tea.
This is a wonderful outreach
event, so we encourage you
to invite your friends and
neighbors to come and enjoy
the service and share in the
fellowship of the Joy Tea.



Christmas Eve Services

Friday, December 24th

5:00pm ~ 7:30pm ~ 11:00pm

We offer once again this year three
candlelight communion services on
Christmas Eve. Both the 5:00pm and
7:30pm services will be identical in
terms of message, hymns and choir
anthems. At 11:00pm, we will hold
our late service, which will feature
a different message and piano music.

All the services will include the
singing of *Silent Night*, passing the
light of Christ, and the Lord's Supper.

OPC Involved in Prison Ministry

A few months ago Harmon Biehl and Tim Moyer both participated in a Kairos Prison Ministry event at Lake County Correctional Facility. Kairos (a Greek word meaning "time") is a ministry that goes into prisons for a long weekend, preaches the gospel, and develops relationships with inmates. At this most recent event, 35 men came to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We have provided additional support for Kairos by allowing the organization to hold training meetings in our building, praying for the events, and donating money toward the cost. Harmon and Tim express their gratitude for our support and encouragement. If you'd like to learn more about the ministry, or get involved, speak to Harmon or Tim. You can also get more information at the organization's web site: kairosprisonministry.org.



Sterlings ~ BUNCO Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 11th at 5:30pm
In Fellowship Hall

Join us as we celebrate the season with a pot luck dinner before BUNCO begins. The Main course will be provided, please bring a dish to share and a hearty appetite!



The Ladies Sewing Group is taking a break during the busy month of December and will resume on January 17th at 9:30am. The ladies



want to thank everyone for their support and wish all a joyous Christmas season.



Flowers for Sunday Worship

December

- 5 Alice & Charles Hawthorne
- 12 Nancy McDavid
- 19 Ann Cordes & Bob Newman
- 24 Roseanna Koppinger
- 26 Roseanna Koppinger

January

*All Sundays in January are available for placing Sanctuary flowers. Please call the church office to save the Sunday of your choice!
407-656-4452*

Sign Up Early!

The 2011 calendar for Sunday worship flowers is now up in the church lobby outside Fellowship Hall. If you would like to place sanctuary flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one, please write your name along with the sentiment on the date of your choosing.



Listen to Pastor Bob's sermons on the OPC website. Pastor Bob's sermons are now being digitally recorded during the 11:00 am service and available on the church website: oaklandpres.org, just click on worship and then sermons.

From the Pastor



It seems that every year when we move the clocks back in the fall, when it starts to get darker so much earlier in the day, I have a hard time adjusting to the change. It was much worse when we lived up north, where it got cold as well as dark. There are days when I don't want to leave the house in the evening. I just want to curl up with a blanket and wait for spring to come.

I commented to Pat, "I'm not sure we would be able to make it through the winter season if it weren't for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Those two holidays give us something to celebrate, something to look forward to in the midst of the winter darkness."

In some ways our experience in the fall and winter is much like life itself. We often experience a darkness in our lives that threatens to banish our joy. And if it were not for the occasional special things that happen in our lives, we might not survive the dark times.

It may be no accident, therefore, that we celebrate the birth of Jesus in the darkest, coldest time of the year. We need a reminder that darkness and sin will not win the battle, that God has sent his Son into the world to be our light, and that God is present with us even in the darkest moments of life.

When you find yourself surrounded by darkness, remember that Jesus is the light of the world. He came to defeat the powers of darkness and sin. His light is what makes life livable, meaningful, and hopeful.

With best wishes for a Christmas season full of joy,

Pastor Bob

Session Highlights

At the November meeting, the Session took the following action:

- Approved several requests for use of the building.
- Approved three new members for the Preschool Board of Directors: Jimmie Hargrove, Cindy Beltz, and Bertha Allen. These are replacing Carole Wingate, Leslie Warden, and Judy Pendergrass.
- Changed the December Session meeting to Tuesday, Dec. 14, due to a conflict in Pastor Bob's schedule.
- Approved a revised version of the agreement document for the Oakland Coalition of Churches.
- Approved the recommendation of the Wedding Committee that the fee for non-members be raised from \$1500 to \$2000. This is to include all fees for organist, sound tech, and pastor.
- Asked the opening elders to set the thermostat in the sanctuary for 71 degrees, as this is the temperature to which the organ pipes are tuned.
- Named Fred Shepherd and Don Hickman as our representatives to the December 7 presbytery meeting to be held at Lady Lake.
- Gave approval to pay the registration fee of our youth for a week at Passport this summer.
- Had prayer for several people mentioned at the start of our meeting



Breakfast with the Angels

Everyone is invited to a warm
pancake breakfast on
Sunday, December 26th
during the Sunday school hour (9:45am)



This is the time we give
our amazing
Sunday school
teachers a break for
the day and reflect on the
joys of the season!

UNBREAKABLE YOUTH

December Calendar

- 12/1 - Creative Youth and Bible Study
(5:15-7:45)
- 12/5 - Children's musical - 7:00pm (CLC)
youth are invited to sit together
to watch the play.
- 12/8 - Creative Youth - Time TBD
- 12/11 - Angel Day 9:00am-2:00pm
& youth Christmas Party 2:00-5:00pm
- 12/12 - Lessons and Song 11:00am worship
(no regular youth group)
- 12/15 - No creative youth
- 12/19 - Church Hay Ride and caroling
- 12/22 - No creative youth
- 12/26 - Breakfast with the Angels during the
Sunday school hour (9:45am)
- 12/29 - No Creative youth



Preschool

NEWS

Time is flying by in the Preschool Department!!! We are now approaching our Christmas Holiday. On December 17 we will be having our Happy Birthday Jesus Party. The children have such a wonderful time celebrating the birth of Jesus. The Preschool will be closed December 20 through December 31. We hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas and most of all let's remember the Birth of Our Lord and Savior.

*Blessings,
Kim Hyatt
Preschool Director*



Youth Christmas Party

The OPC youth will have their
annual Christmas party on
Saturday, December 11th,
2:00pm-4:00pm

We will be making some
Christmas crafts and having our
white elephant gift exchange.
Youth need to bring a wrapped
Christmas gift for the exchange
(no more than \$15) and a
canned food item for the
Christian Service Center.



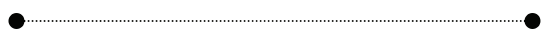
Two Great Opportunities to Help Those in Need

The Mission Committee is sponsoring a Supply Drive for Matthew's Hope in the months of December and January.

Matthew's Hope was founded last January to provide winter clothing and shelter to the homeless. Since its inception, it has become a fully independent outreach ministry offering expansive services to the homeless community in West Orange county. A complete list of needs can be found in the lobby area near the church office or on their website at

www.matthewshopeministries.org

Please return your donations to the Drop Box located near the Fellowship Hall.



S.T.A.R.S. of West Orange is holding their annual Gift Wrapping Fundraiser at their Volunteer Center in the West Oaks Mall.

S.T.A.R.S. (Supplies To Assist our Students) was organized to coordinate community donations of back-to-school supplies for public school students in need. For more information on how you can help out, please contact Beth Kennedy at 407-690-7182.



**SHARE YOUR TIME,
TALENT AND TREASURES**

Acknowledgments & Notables



The thoughts and prayers of the congregation are extended to:

- Joe Smith upon the passing of his father in November.
- Clarence Hurt upon the passing of his sister in November.

Welcome Baby Isla Joiner!

Baby Isla made her debut on November 18th, weighing 7lb 13oz.

Welcoming the new addition are proud parents Nick and Tiffany Joiner, Grandparents Charlie and Theresa Joiner and "Mimi" Connie Joiner!



Thank You From The Mission Committee!

The Alternative Christmas Market held Sunday, November 7th was a huge success! The Mission Committee reports that it sold \$380 worth of merchandise for SERRV, and received a \$50 donation for HEIFER. Thank you to all who supported this worthy cause!



Birthday Blessings to those born in the months of
December and January

DECEMBER

- 1 Nancy Elkins, Mark Myers
- 2 Ashley Boyd, Will Hawthorne
Jacob Holton
- 3 Jennifer Hunt, Alli Smith
- 6 Jennifer Kirwan, Heinz Porth
- 7 Allison Parker
- 8 Neil Asma, Kyle Opificius,
Holly Gordon
- 9 Hunt Paulling
- 11 Kevin Anderson, Mark Nelson,
Rebecca Jaster
- 12 Billy Arrington
- 14 Charles Joiner, Bev Mitchell
- 15 Liz Ann Lummus
- 16 Laura Montgomery,
Hunter Moyer
- 17 Jean Guess, Michael Gibson
- 18 Chic Campbell, Jessica Wozniak
- 19 Eugene Cappleman
Chris Hines
Wendy Stempkowski
- 20 Rick Gaston, Wes McMillan
- 21 Beth Kennedy
- 22 Derek Blakeslee
- 23 Nick Brock
- 24 Jack R. Litteral
- 25 Bob Patterson
- 27 Peggy Lombardo
Scottie Lummus
Nina Anderson
Ethan Pearce
- 28 Betty Jones, Kelsey Lopes
- 29 Karl Anderson, Martha Baldwin
- 31 Todd Griffin, Lindsay Warden

JANUARY

- 1 Linda Anderson, James Teasley
- 2 Meredith Hiatt, Fred Shepherd,
Cheryl Nornhold
- 3 Elliott Burch
- 4 Lulu Galle
- 8 Bea Deariso, Angela Porth
- 9 Jeane Purdy, Kristen Tietz
- 10 Janet Myers, Sean Nelson
- 11 Gayle Terrell
- 12 David Myers
- 13 Gretchen Boyd, Margaret Kirwan
- 16 Carole Wingate
- 19 Don Lantz
- 22 Andrew Blakeslee, Shawn Hill,
Dick Lewis
- 23 Monty Knox
- 24 Scott Welch
- 25 Jennifer Opificius
- 26 Josh Clark, Kay Patterson
- 27 Erin Blakeslee, Kelly Parker
- 28 Helen Brock, Brittany Payne,
Lindsey Patterson
- 30 Christian Brassell, Pat Hines,
Stan Lummus, Eric Mashburn



*If you have a **December or January** birthday not mentioned above please e-mail the church office at welcome@oaklandpres.org to add your name to the birthday list.*



Angel Day

December 11th

9:00a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Ages: 3 (if potty-trained) – 11

Angel day is an opportunity for children to have fun while parents get to do last minute shopping, wrap gifts or just relax! The Unbreakable Youth of Oakland Presbyterian will be here to entertain the children with crafts, music, stories, and games. Lunch will be included. The youth are raising money for their summer mission trip to Macon, GA and are asking for donations for their time. Please sign up at the church office by December 8th to ensure your child's spot. The youth are looking forward to spending some time hanging out with your children and having a fun day!

If you have questions please contact Tiffany Goggans at 407-656-4452 or (tiffany@oaklandpres.org).

It's time for



UPWARD Basketball!

Sign-ups will be on
Tuesday, December
14th and
Thursday, December
16th at 6:00pm.

Our season practices will begin on January 4th,
with the first game taking place on
Saturday, January 15th.

If you know anyone who would like to play or
coach, please contact Tiffany Goggans at
407-656-4452 or tiffany@oaklandpres.org

Don't forget to keep our UPWARD players,
parents and coaches in your prayers during
the basketball season!

Children's Sunday School

Discovery Kingdom Sunday school
will be having a birthday party on
Sunday December 19th during the
Sunday school hour.

Not just any ordinary birthday party, a
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS
PARTY!**

Come to Sunday school on the 19th
For an awesome celebration !



**DISCOVERY
KINGDOM**

OAKLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 38
OAKLAND, FL 34760

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 60003
Winter Garden, FL 34787

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship, 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Church School, 9:45 a.m.

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Robert P. Hines, Jr. *Pastor*
Tiffany Goggans, *Director of Christian Education*
Julie Butler, *Administrative Assistant*
Jennifer Hunt, *Director of Music*
Diane Flagler, *Organist*
Daphne Miller, *Pianist*
Bonnie Litteral, *Director of Children's Choirs*
Kim Hyatt, *Director of Preschool*
Julie Dale, *Business Manager*
Derek Blakeslee, *Church Treasurer*
Mark Winsor, *Property Manager*

Fax 407-656-8201
E-Mail welcome@oaklandpres.org

www.oaklandpres.org

The Oakleaf is the monthly newsletter of the Oakland Presbyterian Church, 218 East Oakland Avenue, P.O. Box 38, Oakland, Florida 34760. Members and newcomers are invited to share Sunday Church School at 9:45 a.m. and Worship at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. • Office phone 407-656-4452 Fax 407-656-8201. You're always welcome at Oakland Presbyterian. For more information please visit our web site: www.oaklandpres.org.

Here We Come A Caroling.....

Hop on the hay wagon and join us for some old fashioned fun, **Sunday, December 19th at 3:00pm** as we go Christmas Caroling around the town of Oakland.

No snow in the forecast, but good friends and fellowship are sure to make everyone merry and bright!

