



PO Box 135 Orlean, VA 20128
church phone: 540-364-4736
church web site: <http://orlean-umc.org/>
email: 1931karma@gmail.com

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Happy New Year!!

Today I am in a reflective mood

As I consider my attitude.....

As the poet says....(and no I do not know his name or his game!)

“You’re a poet

And you don’t know it...

Your feet must be like Longfellow’s”

(or something like that)

But today poetry I will try

And I hope that it will not make you cry

Or worse yet say good-bye

Christmas, my friends, is indeed behind

The New Year has begun

Epiphany is over but be kind

And I do hope that you had some fun

Now we run ahead to whatever awaits

Now we rush ahead to make our dates

We rush ahead not pausing still

To understand, even a bit, of living and life’s thrill

The gifts we pursue and strive to receive

Sometimes lead us to only ourselves to deceive

My goodness! But Ash Wednesday beckons soon

And Lent will quickly follow

Before we know it, Holy Week will burst our balloon

Until Easter morn when suddenly everything else will seem small and hollow

So....Let’s pause for just a moment

To reflect on Epiphany recently gone

And consider a real poet....Edgar Guest....and his Epiphany song:

Oh, if only I had known!"

Said the keeper of the inn.

"But no hint to me was shown,

And I didn't let them in.

"Yes, a star gleamed overhead,

But I couldn't read the skies,

And I'd given every bed

To the very rich and wise.

"And she was so poorly clad,

And he hadn't much to say!

But no room for them I had,

So I ordered them away.

"She seemed tired, and it was late

And they begged so hard, that I

Feeling sorry for her state,

In the stable let them lie.

"Had I turned some rich man out

Just to make a place for them

'Twould have killed, beyond a doubt,

All my trade at Bethlehem.

"Then there came the wise men three

To the stable, with the morn,

Who announced they'd come to see

The great King who had been born.

"And they brought Him gifts of myrrh,

Costly frankincense and gold,

And a great light shone on her

In the stable, bleak and cold.

"All my patrons, now are dead

And forgotten, but today

All the world to peace is led

By the ones I sent away

"It was my unlucky fate

To be born that inn to own,

Against Christ I shut my gate —

Oh, if only I had known!"

Just some words for rhyme
That do not cost you a dime
Consider them please
As you hurry forth with burdens to ease

The New Year beckons indeed
Like the planting of plants and seed
Let us pause and reflect and consider our song
For our time in this place will not be long

The poetry ends if rhyme I can cease
If these silly words will just decease

Blessings to all
And Grace and Peace

Pastor Jim

Food Pantry and PDF

Due to the generosity of our congregation, we were able to help a local family have bountiful holiday celebrations for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our PDF fund was also able to assist a person in our community with their rent.

A woman in Ada called looking for transportation to church and we have been able to provide it. She is happy to be at OUMC and has also joined our Adult Sunday School class.

Our congregation is always readily able to give to the needs of its community, as well as generous in its giving. Thank You!! For whatever you do for the least of these, you do for our Lord Jesus.

As an aside, Wayne and Norma attended the Bishop's Prayer Conference on December 8, 2015 at Christ Church. It was a beneficial experience and allowed them to see Christ Church's new facility on the day of its dedication.

Tip of the Halo to:

~~**everyone** who contributed to the potluck after the Bells of Praise service and to the **bell ringers**
~~the **choir** for singing and **Jim J.** for playing the saxophone at the Community Thanksgiving service
~~**everyone** who donated Campbell's Labels, Box Tops, and Tyson A+ labels
~~**Lorraine** and **Jim J.** for their instrumental duets during worship
~~**Joan, Kenny, Gus, Elma,** and **Sharon** for preparing the church and grounds for Advent
~~**everyone** who helped with the annual Christmas in Orlean event
~~**everyone** who participated in the annual Pizza Party and White Elephant gift exchange
~~**Joan** for organizing the Lights of Love and for putting the doves on the tree
~~**Mary** for getting names from DSS to sponsor for Christmas presents; **everyone** who sponsored a child; Mary taking the gifts to be distributed

Birthdays and Special Occasions

Gus C.	Jan. 13	Peggy & Mack Baer (anniv.)	March 3
Heidi & Jim Jones (anniv.)	Jan. 19	R.O. U.	March 12
Joan B.	Jan. 31	Bob T.	March 14
Joan & Ken Poole (anniv.)	Feb. 6	Peggy B.	March 15
Sharon H.	Feb. 10	Rose R.	March 16
Gracie W.	Feb. 14	Alyssa G.	March 17
Erin M.	Feb. 15	Mary & Bobby Tarr (anniv.)	March 19
Bill D.	Feb. 18	Sandra P.	March 26
Shaw M.	Feb. 26	Wayne S.	March 28
Julie T.	Feb. 28		

Calendar of Events

January 10	OUMW Lunch and Meeting at Orlean Market after worship
January 13	Community Prayer Gathering, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm in OUMC sanctuary
January 31	5 th Sunday Potluck in Fellowship Hall after worship
February 10	Community Prayer Gathering, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm in OUMC sanctuary
February 14	Administrative Council meeting after worship in Fellowship Hall
March 9	Community Prayer Gathering, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm in OUMC sanctuary
March 13	OUMW Lunch and Meeting at Orlean Market after worship
March 25	Good Friday Service, time to be determined
March 27	Easter Sunrise Service at Orlean Cemetery on John Barton Payne Road; in case of bad, service will be held at Orlean United Methodist Church. Breakfast following the service in Fellowship Hall at Orlean United Methodist Church; time to be determined