



THE CONNECTION

Orlean United Methodist Church



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Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. Ephesians 6:10-11

Message from the Pastor:

BE AMAZED.....BE ASTONISHED

A new year beckons.....it will again feature the untold beauty of spring, summer, fall and winter
.....be amazed at God's creation.....

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good..." (Genesis 1:30)

Be inspired as God speaks to you every day (if you will open your heart to Him) through Jesus or the Holy Spirit.....Invest in a good Devotional and read it daily

"...and when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching..." (Matthew 7:28)

Start and keep/maintain a prayer journal in 2015.....be amazed at how God will respond to your prayers ---often in ways that you may not expect or initially understand or appreciate...but the Holy Spirit will ultimately help you to see/reflect upon God's plans for you

"...I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home. And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God....." (Mark 2:11-12)

"... And all who heard him were astonished...." (Luke 2:47-48)

In the New Year be amazed...be astonished at what will be revealed to you as you grow through personal or group study. Get a good study Bible and read it, reflect upon it; pray over it.

“Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished...” (Acts 2:5-7)

Join our Sunday school class. Be amazed at how God will use the Holy Spirit to touch you and to open your eyes and minds and hearts to the power of His Word--- interact with your brothers and sisters in faith.

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

Be Bold

Be Amazed

Be Astonished

Be a part of our community mission and outreach efforts.

2015 is a new year full of new possibilities

Don't miss out

Don't sit back

Listen to the prodding of the Holy Spirit in your life-----and be amazed and astonished at where the Spirit may lead you.

Happy New Year

Pastor Jim

Notice

If anyone would like to receive the newsletter via email instead of the mailbox, please send an email to 1931karma@gmail.com and put “newsletter” in the subject line.

New Arrival

Robert got a sister for an early Christmas present; Juliette Elizabeth was born on December 19th.

Food Pantry and PDF

The Food Pantry received \$130.74 from escrip (shopping with Safeway Bonus Card) from January through November of 2014. If anyone has any questions or would like to register their Safeway Bonus Card, please contact Shaw Moffett.

New Member

On 14 December, Orlean United Methodist Church welcomed Bob T. as a new member; a reception in his honor followed the service.

Guest Columnist

On Saturday, October 25th of last year, I attended the “Lord, Teach Me to Pray” event sponsored by the Virginia Conference and held at St. Thomas United Methodist Church in Manassas, Va. The event was insightful and enjoyable, and I would like to share with you a short summary of the experience.

Our first session was plenary, led by Wendy Miller, a professor and author, with an extensive background in spiritual disciplines. She gave us a short talk about the importance of prayer, encouraging us to be open to new (at least to most of us) approaches to prayer. She conducted a brief prayer service in the rhythm of Taizé. Taizé is apparently an order of monks who have developed this meditative, rhythmic style of prayer by using repetition of spoken and sung verses to quiet the noise in our souls and help us listen to God. In so doing, our “spiritual center” is refreshed and re-focused on that well spring of living water the Lord offers to us. We are strengthened to go from there to more effective ministry. The Taizé monks have an in-depth website [www.taize.fr/en] that offers information and resources.

The second session was led by Rev. Dr. H. Celeste Heath of Mount Vernon UMC in Alexandria. Her session title “Using Our Hymnals in Prayer and Devotion” was subtitled with a quote from St. Augustine; “He who sings prays twice.” From her session I learned that our hymnal is a rich resource for prayer services; many of the hymns can be sung as hymns, and there are quite a few written prayers in it as well. She gave us an exhaustive list of suggested resources from the hymnal, and played snippets on the piano and guitar of as many of them as time would allow.

After Dr. Heath’s session we broke for lunch. Here I would like to give kudos to St Thomas UMC; they showed genuine hospitality; keeping coffee, tea and cold drinks available during the entire event. Lunch was served in a most gracious manner and included gluten free and vegetarian meals. How thoughtful!

The first afternoon session focused on using art as a medium for expressing prayer. It was interesting, but not really my cup of tea. But it is an interesting idea, and might appeal to many other people. Unfortunately, I don’t know the name of the leader of this session.

The final session was again with Wendy Miller. It was essentially a wrap-up and Q&A session. I appreciated the opportunity to be in a small group with her and to get to know her better.

All of the presenters showed genuine enthusiasm about prayer and for their particular emphasis and a heart-felt wish to inspire participants to develop their prayer life beyond whatever limitations may impede it. The day certainly returned reward well beyond the nominal fee and the time spent on it.

In closing I will reference the recent edition of “The Advocate,” the focus of which is how to keep churches thriving in today’s world. It is suggested here that churches need to focus on Discipleship, always leading people to take “the next step” in their walk with the Lord. Orlean UMC has in place teaching discipleship through the Adult Sunday School; and a strong outreach program to the local community and beyond.

Our Bishop is encouraging us to make that next step a concentrated emphasis on prayer. I would suggest that we do just that; and, if we move in that direction, I would be honored to use what I learned to help us take that step.

Respectfully submitted,
Norma D. Howard

Tip of the Halo to:

- ~~Sandy G. for donating the pansies along the stone wall and Lorraine for planting them
- ~~everyone who participated in the October potluck/reception for Martha's baptism & for the bell choir
- ~~St John's Bells of Praise for performing during worship
- ~~everyone who contributed Campbell's Labels for Education, Box Tops, and Tyson A+ Labels
- ~~everyone who donated Christmas gifts for DSS families
- ~~everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving dinner for a DSS family
- ~~Mary for organizing and delivering the DSS gifts and food
- ~~everyone who participated in Christmas in Orlean
- ~~everyone who helped with Bob's reception
- ~~Sharon, Gus & Elma, Kenny & Joan, and Sandy & Shaw for getting the church and grounds ready for Advent
- ~~Jim J. for the musical treat during the Christmas Eve Service
- ~~Joan P. for organizing the doves on the tree

Birthdays and Special Occasions

Ann T.	Jan. 7		
Gus C.	Jan. 13	Peggy & Mack Baer (anniv.)	Mar. 3
Heidi & Jim Jones (anniv.)	Jan. 19	R. O. U.	Mar. 12
Joan B.	Jan. 31	Bob T.	Mar. 14
Joan & Ken Poole (anniv.)	Feb. 6	Peggy B.	Mar. 15
Sharon H.	Feb. 10	Rose R.	Mar. 16
Gracie Edna W.	Feb. 14	Mary & Bobby Tarr (anniv.)	Mar. 19
Erin M.	Feb. 15	Sandra P.	Mar. 26
Bill D.	Feb. 18	Wayne S.	Mar. 28
Shaw M.	Feb. 26		
Julie Roberts T.	Feb. 28		

Calendar of Events

- January 11 2nd Sunday Lunch at Orlean Market after worship
- February 8 2nd Sunday Lunch at Orlean Market after worship
- February 18 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm
- February 22 Administrative Council Meeting after worship
- March 8 2nd Sunday Lunch at Orlean Market after worship
- March 29 5th Sunday Potluck after worship
- Palm Sunday
- April 2 or 3 Maundy Thursday OR Good Friday service
- April 5 Easter Sunrise Service at Orlean Cemetery (on John Barton Payne Road) or at Orlean Baptist Church (also on John Barton Payne Road) in case of bad weather. Orlean Baptist Church is hosting breakfast after worship.
An Easter egg hunt at OUMC is being planned. Please contact Karen for details.