



## New Summer Schedule begins June 6<sup>th</sup>

Oakland's new summer Sunday schedule begins June 6<sup>th</sup> through August 29. Sunday morning worship will be at 9:00 a.m. with Sunday School following at 10:15.

## Congregational Forum

Plan now to attend Oakland's Congregational Forum May 2nd. The schedule for the morning will be:

- 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship followed by a fellowship meal and the Congregational Forum.

## Mother's Day May 9, 2010

**"Mothers write on the hearts of their children what the world's rough hand cannot erase."**



—Author

unknown

## Celebration of Daughters

Ladies, you are invited to a celebration of daughters May 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at Oakland.

This will be an English Tea – bring your favorite teacup and the reasons that it is your favorite. Please RSVP to Cheryl Hittle by phone at 937-459-5736 or e-mail at [cherylhittle@aol.com](mailto:cherylhittle@aol.com). Please include name, address, phone number and number attending.



## Attention Graduates!

We will feature Oakland's 2010 High School Seniors in our June Newsline. We are asking that you share your plans for after graduation – college, careers, service, etc. as well as a photograph.

Please give this information to Claire Long or Jon Keller or e-mail it to [Claire.long@oaklandchurch.org](mailto:Claire.long@oaklandchurch.org).

### Pastor's Message



**"MARVEL: Mission, Action, Reaction, ReVELation"**

**Read Mark 4:35-41**

*"Let us go across to the other side."*

This is the first account in Mark after Jesus officially appoints His twelve disciples that they are told to go into the mission field with Jesus,

and where they go is about as intense as you could possibly get.

Each and every day I am made aware that **God's work in our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ is a MARVEL: it involves Mission, it involves Action, there is then our Reaction to all that is happening, and finally we are given ReVELation.**

First, Jesus is clear about the disciples' **MISSION:** *"Let us go across to the other side."*

What is on the other side? For Jesus and His disciples it was the Gerasenes, the Gentiles, an unclean land for a Jew. Specifically and directly, Jesus and His disciples were confronted by the demoniac who lived in the tombs. Jesus made it clear to the disciples in a hurry that many of whom they would minister to were those people who were considered to be outcasts, the sick, the sinners, those who were on "the other side".

God has called us to go across to the other side. What is on the other side for us? No matter who it is, people need to know they are loved.

This takes **ACTION:** *"And leaving the crowd behind, they took Jesus with them in the boat, just as He was."*

Jesus called them to go and they went. They got into their boat and pushed away from shore, leaving the crowd behind.

Our first response to God's mission He has set before us must be to go. God calls us to action.

And as we sail to the other side we must remember a very important component of the trip: Jesus. *"The disciples took Jesus with them in the boat."* We must be sure to take Him with us. This is His mission, passed on to us to fulfill within our community. Jesus must be the leader.

Because, the unexpected occurred: *"A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped."* As we sail on together with Jesus Christ, storms will arise—conflicts, setbacks, challenges, you name it. When we are in the boat with Jesus, moving across the waters, the boat is going to rock! That is a simple fact of life, and it is a very clear fact of ministry.

Which leads to the third step in God's work: **REACTION.**

*"But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him up and said to Him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?'"*

How do we react when the storms arise? Turn the ship around and head back for home?—"This transition stuff, this change is too much, it's too hard. We need to get back to how we used to do things." Do we lose faith in God's leading?—"Lord, You are leading us into waters that are too deep for us—we can't do all this!" Do we try to take control of the boat ourselves to keep it from sinking?—"Alright, you know what? I don't like the way this feels—this boat is rocking a little too much for my comfort level. Give me that steering wheel, I know where calmer waters are." Do we hunker down in the bottom of the boat in fear?—"Wow, this is scary stuff we are doing! I'm just going to lay low in all of this and let everyone else deal with it until things calm down a bit."

OR, do we completely trust and believe in God's power to sustain, lead, and direct us to the other side?

And when we do put our faith in Him completely, He will reveal Himself to us in ways we could never have imagined. He will give to us **REVELATION.** Jesus calmed the storm. "And the disciples were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?'"

The steps we take to reach the other side, wherever that may be along our journey with Jesus, are faith-building steps. God is good, and will continue to reveal Himself to us in new ways.

One last thought: The other side was not the final destination, but an important moment in the disciples' growth. We know that the story continued after they arrived on the other side.

May it be so for us in Jesus Christ. God bless you. -Pete



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Melodie Bernhard  
Kyle Marchal  
Irene Thompson
- 2 Carol Weaver

3 Glenn Brewer

Carl Jones  
 Alice Keller  
 5 Mark Burns  
 Sarah Sutter  
 Arrin Turnmire  
 6 Ryan Lutz  
 Pam Pohlman  
 7 Rick Apple  
 Dennis Etter  
 Lynne Hanes  
 9 Jennifer Royer  
 10 Rick Sampsel  
 11 Ben Hart  
 13 Lucas Foreman  
 14 Troy Baker  
 Aimee Galloway  
 15 Joice Bernhard  
 Caleb Cook  
 16 Zach Kontra  
 19 Ryan Dull  
 20 Kaley Thomas  
 21 Gideon Reynolds  
 22 Lori Keller  
 23 Judy Magoto  
 Noah Welbaum  
 25 Michael Menke  
 Lizzy Sampsel  
 26 Suzi Keller  
 Aaron Shade  
 27 Landon keller  
 30 Larry Brand  
 31 Jane Stump  
 Penny Welbaum

18 Dan and Lynn Witwer  
 25 Allen and Sylvia Hansen  
 31 Brett and Patty Clark  
 Gary and Claire Long

## Financial News March 2010

Regular Fund Receipts	\$	42,848.52
Regular Fund Disbursements		
	\$	31,239.03
March Budget	\$	30,272.38
YTD Regular Fund Receipts	\$	105,036.91
YTD Regular Fund Disbursements		
	\$	89,755.98
YTD Budget	\$	89,771.89
YTD Special Offerings		
FISH	\$	80.00
Haitian Project	\$	525.00
Oakland Witness Fund	\$	57.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$	100.00
Checking balance 3-31-09	\$	13,301.03
Special Funds (Kitchen, Dinner Theater, Memorial, Summer Youth)	\$	24,318.54
Hospitality Funds	\$	108,068.18
Average March offerings (5 weeks of offerings recorded)	\$	8,570.00
Average YTD offerings (based on 12 week average)	\$	8,753.00
Weekly need	\$	6,724.00

A copy of all financial statements is in the library.

### *Celebrating Anniversaries*

#### May

2 Clyde and Jane Stump  
 6 Delbert and Louise Blickenstaff  
 8 Scott and Kristene Clark  
 Mike and Leeta Hemmelgarn  
 14 Safet and Anna Hatic  
 17 Carl and Vonnie Jones



### Welcome to our Guests

We want to welcome our guests at worship this month: Joyce Thornton; Lance Berner; Reece Niswonger; Becky Emerick; Mildred Scammahorn; Ellie Foster; Kelly, Rod, Jessica, Logan, Matt and Paige Williams; Mildred and Ruth Bowman; Ann and Ryan Stackhouse; Ben Tinkham; Matt

Daniels; Tyler Luce; Beth, Norm and Jake Ferland; Matthew Myers; Wally and Linda Derksen; Javier Bixler; Nick, Lindsey and Payton house; Eric, Emily and Emily Tetzl; Jenny, Chloe, Ellie, and Micah Light; Alyssa, Gary and Madison Duvall; Kevin, Shawna, Jonah, Elijah, Sam, and Isaac Murphy; John Welch; Nathan, Bridget, Clayton and Colleen Steinmetz; Monica Alexander; Chuck Wesley; and Wilbur Harpest.



### In our Thoughts and Prayers

Remember in your prayers: Sue Wilson, Tonnya Helfrich, Kaysa Meeks, Leeta Hemmelgarn,

Sherry Warvel, Leo Witwer, Helen Witwer, Ed Lease, Joann Duncan, Margaret Oswald, Janice Holsapple, and Carl Carey.



### Attendance April 2010

Date	S.S.	Worship
4	125 sunrise (10:30)	111 283
11	125	227
18	115	199

### Deacon News

There were one hundred people at Love Feast (including those in the nursery) this year. The next deacon Meeting is Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Oakland Church.

Nan Hottle, Deacon Chair



### Faithful Servants Trash Bash!

On Saturday, April 17, 18 members of the Faithful Servants Sunday School class participated in Darke County Trash Bash 2010. We cleaned trash from side ditches on Horatio- Harris Creek and Childrens-Home Bradford Roads. This day was sponsored by Darke County Solid Waste Management. We collected 61 bags of trash sorted by recyclables and other trash. The money received from this workday will be donated to Bob Bitner's bicycle restoration project. Our goal is to be better stewards of God's earth.

### Education Ministry Team

The goal established by our education ministry team is: ***to build intergenerational relationships through educational opportunities which strengthen the Oakland family.***

Our strategies toward meeting this goal are intended to address some of the heartfelt dreams for Oakland which were expressed by our congregation. After discernment of these

dreams, our committee identified the following areas of focus:

- Focus groups will be established to evaluate the substance and relevance of our current children's and youth ministry programs.
- Feedback will be solicited from parents for suggestions to enhance the Sunday morning experience to make it more meaningful and relevant to them.
- Post-high young adults will be surveyed about how we can meet their diverse needs and schedules and how we can support their spiritual growth to strengthen their relationships with God, with each other, and with our congregation.
- Input will be gathered to determine the congregation's interest in developing small groups, cell groups, community groups, and/or family groups.
- Elective Sunday school classes will offered as well as opportunities for our congregation to develop intergenerational Christian and personal relationships.

Looking ahead to our summer schedule, we intend to offer month-long elective Sunday school classes throughout the summer, but leaders and topics have not yet been finalized. Announcements will be posted in the Sunday bulletin and on the information board in the fellowship hall.

**Education.** . .continued

Please contact an education team committee member if you have Christian education suggestions or if you feel led to facilitate a class! Education ministry team members are Patty Bernhard, Lorraine Grote, Jon Keller, Bill Kidwell, and Bethany Menke.

## **Fellowship/Hospitality Ministry Team Report**

Dinner Theater committee met on March 28<sup>th</sup>, along with Vonnie Jones, Dinner Coordinator and Brenda Coblenz, Ticket Sales, to discuss this year's Dinner Theater. It was decided to proceed with another production in 2011. Due to the smaller numbers, it was noted that there was a more relaxed atmosphere for all of the Dinner Theater volunteers.

Equal Exchange (Fair Trade) coffee is still available for purchase. They come in 12 oz packages and can be purchased on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall. Equal Exchange also has Fair Trade teas, chocolates and cocoas, too. If interested, please let me know and I will order them for you.

Just a reminder of the Celebration of Daughters event being planned for May 8, at 3:00 p.m.

Darlene Dillon, Chair

*News from our District  
And Beyond*

### **Letter from Mark Flory Steury:**

My time as district executive is too quickly coming to an end. I will be concluding my responsibilities with the district on June 30. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in working with all of you. I was installed as district

executive of Southern Ohio at district conference in 1999. The world has changed drastically during the past ten years. The attacks on New York and Washington in 2001 stand out as the major formative events in our nation during the decade. Our culture has also changed drastically. Technology has had a big impact on how we communicate. The internet and facebook have become primary means of communication.

I've appreciated the opportunity to be in ministry among you. Mary Jo and I moved to Southern Ohio in 1984 to begin our ministry at the Troy Church of the Brethren. Following our time there, Mary Jo served at Prince of Peace and I was pastor at Mack Memorial. We have lived in this district for 26 years. Both Joshua and Jessica were born and raised here in Ohio. We will always cherish our relationships and memories.

On July 1 I will begin as pastor of the Neighborhood Church of the Brethren in Montgomery, Illinois. This congregation is located about thirty miles south of Elgin. Although I've enjoyed my work as district executive, I am looking forward to being a pastor again. I have always said that I believe there is no higher calling in the church than to be a pastor. I'm glad I can now live out the next phase of my ministry in a congregational setting.

Southern Ohio is a wonderful district. We are blessed with 52 congregations, two new fellowships and one even newer fellowship welcomed recently by the district board. As I said above, the world and our culture has changed drastically. How we do church is also changing. The gospel of Jesus Christ is never changing. However, how that is communicated and lived out changes from generation to generation.

God bless the Southern Ohio district and all of the churches in ministry among us. May we continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the world around us!

Mark Flory Steury  
(reprinted from May 2010 Memo)

**April 30 – May 2, 2010 – A Weekend with Donald Kraybill**, co-author of *AMISH GRACE: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy*.

**May 1, 2010** – Salem Church of the Brethren – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (*Workshop for Church leaders*)

UNDERSTANDING APOLOGY AND FORGIVENESS: BIBLICAL AND SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

7:00 p.m. – Salem Church of the Brethren – AMISH GRACE: FORGIVENESS IN THE FACE OF TRAGEDY

**May 2, 2010** – Salem Church of the Brethren – 10:00 a.m. SERMON WHY FORGIVENESS MATTERS



**20th Annual Senior Adult Carry-In Picnic June 5th** : The 20th Annual Southern Ohio District Senior Adult Picnic will be held at **Mill**

**Ridge Village** on Saturday, June 5th. Arrive at 4pm, and we will eat promptly at 4:30pm. Program will begin at 5:30pm.

The Southern Ohio District of the Church of the Brethren Women's



Retreat is scheduled for September 17-19, 2010, at Woodland Altars.

Theme: "Come to the Banquet."

Special speaker: Wendy Matheny, graduate of Manchester College and a Fulbright Scholar, internship with the Secretary of State, lives and works in Washington, D.C.

Topic: "Global Women's Issues"

Scholarship money is available and all women are welcome! Any questions? See Mary Carroll Blocher or Patty Clark.



### **Camp Counselors**

**Needed:** Our staff needs camp counselors. Are you a Christian? Can you

share a week/weekend of your summer with children/youth? If so, check out the camp schedule at the OMC website and call Char Clark - 833-3336, or Gene Karn - 417-1184 to schedule time as a counselor at Woodland Altars.

**Mother's Day Gratitude Project:** "In honor of a woman you know and love, and in solidarity with mothers around the world."

Global Women's Project announces the 3rd annual Mother's Day Gratitude Project. Rather than buying material gifts for your loved one, express your gratitude with a gift that helps other women around the world. Your donation allows us to fund projects focused on women's health, education, and employment in Indiana, Palestine, Southern Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda and Nepal. In return, your chosen recipient will receive a card indicating that a gift has been made in her honor.

To participate, send a donation to: **Global Women's Project, c/o Nan Erbaugh, 47 S. Main Street, West Alexandria, OH 45381-1243.** Remember to include your name(s) and recipient's name and address. You may also make memorial donations. These will be honored on a special page on the website. Gratitude cards will be mailed in time for Mother's Day.

### **Summer Jobs at Woodland Altars:**

Woodland Altars needs Life Guards for summer. If you're a certified life guard and would like to work at Woodland Altars, call 947-588-4411. OMC is looking for full-time staff for the summer. You must be one year out of high school to be a full-time counselor. Call Outdoor Ministries office for more information.



**Sold**

The Senior High Youth say: THANK YOU for supporting our youth auction fundraiser March 28, 2010. There were 14 youth sold at the auction this year for a total of \$11,268.00. This amount divided by the 14 youth sold equals \$804.86 per youth. This amount sets a new auction record for dollars per youth raise. (The old record was \$763.15 set in 2007) This money will help send 17 youth and three youth leaders to the Church of Brethren National Youth Conference July 17-22, 2010 in Fort Collins Colorado. Again, thank you for your support!

May God bless you for your generosity,  
Oakland Senior High Youth

## ***Jr. High Youth***

**May 19, 2010 will be our last  
“Wednesday Night Live” of the  
school year!**

## **Eggs = New Life!**

On April 3th children gathered together and collected many eggs to celebrate New Life! Special eggs contained ‘clues’ to the Easter story and the children worked together in order to make these clues come alive in a retelling! The kids also created the Easter story in an egg-one to keep & one to share! Thank you so much to all who came to enjoy the day, helped fill eggs, and of course to our many ‘bunnies’ who made finding them so much fun!

**Wow!** If you were here on Easter you were able to see the beautiful cross of flowers in the sanctuary. **A very special Thank You to all of the children!!!**

## **Sail with us on the High Seas!!**



Oakland's 2010 Vacation Bible School! Mark your calendars for **Aug. 1-5 2010!**

It's going to be an adventure to remember!

## **Wednesday Night Clubs are Fun Fun Fun!!**

But on **May 19<sup>th</sup>** they will be done –  
Until fall that is!

## **What does 177,197 stand for?**

Check out the June Newsletter to find out!!

Blessings!

Lorraine