

The Orange Branch

Orange United Methodist Church

JANUARY 2009

Sunday Morning Schedule:
8:45 AM Worship
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship

The Members of Orange UMC are its ministers. The staff who assist them in their work are:

- Graham Arp
Youth Director
- Anne Chandler
Administrative Assistant
- Jennifer Smithwick
Children's Director
- Dee Smithwick
Custodian
- Joy Turner
Music Director
- Max Vincent
Pastor

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“Renewing Our Covenant as We Welcome the New Year”

Early Methodists often marked the New Year with what they called a Covenant Renewal Service; many may remember this as a Watch Night Service. Some historians view this yearly renewal service as part of the fire that kept the flames of the Spirit burning within the soul of Methodism. This yearly covenant renewed their sense of dependence on God's grace and dedication to God's mission. I found the following history of the service in *The United Methodist Book of Worship* and thought it would be great to remind ourselves of this tradition as we welcome 2009.

In 1663 Richard Alleine, a Puritan, published Vindiciae Pietatis: or, A Vindication of Godliness in the Greater Strictness and Spirituality of It. In 1753, it was again published in John Wesley's A Christian Library. Wesley used one chapter, "The Application of the Whole," on Monday, August 11, 1755, in what probably was the first real celebration of the Covenant Service in the Methodist movement.

Wesley found the service rich and meaningful, as expressed in his

Journal: "Many mourned before God, and many were comforted" (April 1756); "It was, as usual, a time of remarkable blessing" (October 1765); "It was an occasion for a variety of spiritual experiences ... I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of His graces, healing all their backslidings" (January 1, 1775). In London these services were usually held on New Year's Day. Around the country the Covenant Service was conducted whenever John Wesley visited the Methodist Societies.

Part of the beauty of the service is the prayer and invitation which asks all present to renew their covenant to be in mission with God:

*Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants.
Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him.
Christ has many services to be done.
Some are more easy and honorable,
others are more difficult and disgraceful.*

Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.

*Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:
Let me be your servant, under your command.
I will no longer be my own.*

*I will give up myself to your will in all things.
Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work. Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands:
put me to doing, put me to suffering,
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and with a willing heart
give it all to your pleasure and disposal.*

May this be our resolution for the New Year.

Peace, Max

Thank you to all who gave so generously this Christmas season to Orange's Staff Love Offering for Anne, Dee, Graham, Jennifer, Joanna, Joy, Missy, and Max. God Bless you all this new year!

Children's Ministry

Jennifer Smithwick, Coordinator
 Phone: 770-735-1083
 E-mail: travnjenny@tds.net



Youth News

Graham Arp, Director
 Phone: 770-894-1979
 E-mail: gram4jesus@yahoo.com



Camp Woodlands is July 27-August 1, 2009. Youth must be signed up by February 18, 2009. Find out more about Camp Woodlands at OrangeYouth.org.

Appreciation Dinner - Our annual youth appreciation dinner will take place on Saturday, January 24 at 6 pm. All the church is invited to enjoy a dinner served by the youth to show our appreciation for all the support from the church throughout the year. Please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or by e-mailing Graham at gram4jesus@yahoo.com.

Youth meetings take place every Sunday night at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Orange. Dinner is always provided along with Bible study and games. Also, we have a lot of exciting things going on in

Sunday School. If any youth are not currently attending, please check us out on Sundays. We have a new class for "girls only" that takes place in the church office conference room.

Music News

Joy Turner, Music Director
 Phone: 770-889-1278
 E-mail: joychoirdirector@bellsouth.net

The Music Department would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the special music programs during the holiday season. It was a wonderful month of Christmas music!

We will begin new music in January in both the Children's Choir and the Adult Choir. Now would be

a good time to join one of these choirs. If you are interested, please contact me at 770-889-1278.

Thanks Again and God Bless,

Joy

Outreach / Missions

Ed McDonald, Outreach Coordinator
 Phone: 770-720-6089
 E-mail: edmacmo@gmail.com



NEW! Service Projects/Day of Service

—Tom Schwab and Roger Leaders organized our first one in December. Seven people from Orange braved the chilly day and worked with about 25 high school students on the Habitat for Humanity house being built in Canton. Please check out the professional siding job on the house at 112 Cherokee Street. Please contact Tom Schwab if you know someone in need, whether elderly or in some way without the means to take care of basic necessities, such as basic home repairs, steps, doors, plumbing, etc. We'll try and help and do what we can. The plan is to do at least one service project each month. On January 24, we will install a ramp for Habitat.

Meals on Wheels will resume on January 13, 2009.

Thank you to all who visited and/or participated in any of the

alternative Christmas Gift opportunities...I heard mention of purchasing *bees* and a *sheep* from Heifer International (www.heifer.org). Several of you also purchased fair trade products from SERRV (www.serrv.org). What a great way to benefit both the gift recipient and the artisan who created it! We still have plenty of the fair trade, delicious, gourmet coffee, cocoa, and chocolate bars. There is a display in the church office conference room. Did I mention everything is delicious?

Mother's Cupboard appreciates your donations of money, food, and your time. We need all three of these. Demand for food continues to increase and any extras that each one of you can spare is much appreciated. If you are specifically purchasing food for Mother's Cupboard, what we need most often are canned meats (beef stew, chili, chicken and dumplings, salmon, tuna fish, etc.); peanut butter (18 oz. Size), jelly (18-32 oz. Size), and spaghetti (or other bulk 1 lb. pastas).

These items can be purchased at Dollar General and they supplement what is donated and what we receive from the food bank. The most bang for your buck comes from donating money (since we can get food from the food bank for about 1/3 to 1/6 the cost of what you would have to pay), but we still encourage purchasing physical product especially if youth or children are participating in the purchase.

Senior's Bingo resumes on January 28, 2009. Invite a friend for some luncheon fun!

Stewardship

Curt Escher, Finance Committee Chairman
 Phone: 770-887-8943
 E-mail: curt@southeasternsecurity.com



On Sunday, January 18, we will receive our annual, Human Relations Day Offering. This one of six special offerings the United Methodist Church receives each year. The following article is from the website www.umcgiving.org, it is an illustration of how this offering helps change lives and communities. For more information, click on the website on your computer. The Human Relations Day offering makes it possible for workers to turn

lives around and make a change for the better. The Human Relations Day offering helps church-based community developers work in racial and ethnic minority communities in the United States and Puerto Rico. The offering also ensures a second chance for youth offenders.

Why do we celebrate this offering on the Sunday before the observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday? Because as United Methodists we believe in the development of

better human relations and we seek to empower others to become the whole persons God intended.

Every one of God's children deserves to open doors to success.



Happy January Birthdays!

Holden Dayoub	1
Meree White	2
Leila Lathem	3
Linda Arsenault	4
Stephanie Sedlar	4
Bob Koenig	5
Jon Lathem	5
Katie Schwab	5
Lacey Kinser	7
Dwight Smithwick	7
Madella Shelton	10
Smith White	11
Linda West	13
Annie Marchetta	14
Haley Waldrop	18
Victoria Wallace	18
Louise Corn	19
Ashley Jeffreys	19
Lauren Jeffreys	19
Terry Turner	21
Michelle White	21
Charles Orr	22
Leslie Shelley	23
Amy Walton	23
Max Vincent	24
Laura Leaders	24
McKenzie Carr	27
Hoyt Rogers	30

If your birthday is not listed,
please notify the church office.

United Methodist Women

Jamie Hogue, President
Phone: 770-887-9616
E-mail: jamiebug@gmail.com



The Orchard Ladies Circle will meet on Monday night, January 5, in the church Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments and fellowship will begin at 6:30 pm and our meeting will start at 7 pm. All ladies are welcome. Please come and fellowship with us and learn what The Orchard Circle has planned for 2009.

United Methodist Men

Bob Koenig, President
Phone: 770-781-6651
E-mail: koenig2681@juno.com



Romans 5:4-5 gives us a message to start off the new year for United Methodist Men to share in our community and help our neighbors: "...and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

Our first meeting for 2009 will be at the Corner Café on Monday, January 19, 2009 at 7 pm. Our speaker will be Tom Schwab and he will talk about the projects he is planning to assist people in our community. Orange UMM has always supported this kind of work and, and I think Tom has a plan that we can all get behind in helping others.

SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

January 4-Epiphany Sunday-Sermon: "According to God's Power"-Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23. Communion

January 11-1st Sunday after Epiphany-Baptism of the Lord-Sermon: "The Baptism of Jesus"-Scripture: Mark 1:4-11

January 18-2nd Sunday after Epiphany-Sermon: "The Invitation of Jesus"-Scripture: John 1:43-51

January 25-3rd Sunday after Epiphany-Sermon: "The Message of Jesus"-Scripture: Mark 1:14-20

January Announcements

On Sunday, January 11, we will have a time to pray for our newly elected church leaders for the coming year. All committee members and Church Council members are invited to be in worship that morning for prayers of dedication for your service.

Staff Parish Relations Committee All members of SPR are invited to meet at the church on January 6 by 6:30 pm. We will travel to the District office for a training led by our District Superintendent, Dr. Ed Tomlinson. The training is set for 7-9 pm.

Coming in February...Scout Sunday, February 8!

Attention all church and committee members (and anyone else who is interested in our ministry structure and future). You are invited to a planning and training session on Saturday, January 17 from 9am - 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This is a time to see how our different committees relate to each other, see the results of our most recent Church Healthy survey, and plan for the future growth and ministry of Orange United Methodist Church. If you are planning to attend, please call the church office and let us know by January 12, so we can plan accordingly.

Prayer Request E-mail:
prayer@orangeumc.org

February newsletter deadline
is January 15. E-mail to:
orangeumc@orangeumc.org

Orange United Methodist Church Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 9 am-2 pm

Sundays in January

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