

In Touch

Sharing the Faith Story of Ooltewah United Methodist Church



Pastor's Letter

Pastor Ramón Torres

Taking Care Of Business

In a recent sermon I highlighted some of the local and foreign ministries that we support here at OUMC. In particular, I highlighted the mission work that is funded through directed giving to three funds: Congregational Care and Support; Share and Care; and Faith Promise. I was a little surprised to find out that many among our congregation were unaware of all that we do locally, and all of the missionaries that we support throughout the world. This saddens me for two reasons. First, we should all be aware of what our church does, so that we can participate in these ministries, and share the news of these ministries with others. Secondly, it means that I need to make sure that the congregation is better informed!

So, allow me to take a moment to highlight a couple of ministries of OUMC. Did you know that through our OUMC Church budget, we budgeted \$22,500 for Children's Ministry? We also budgeted \$15,000 for Student Ministries (ministries for junior and senior high students). The Finance Committee felt that these were reasonable amounts to provide a variety of opportunities for ministry to the children of our congregation. These totals represent many things, from postage, curriculum, nursery supplies, seasonal events (VBS, Trunk or Treat), special events, and mailings – just to name a few.

However, much of what we had planned for will not take place. New curriculums will not be bought, and other special events will be scaled back, and some cut. Why? Because here at the end of June we have only received 36% of projected income. Since we are half way through the year, this means that 14% of everything has had to be scaled back. Everything – including evangelism, and all other areas of ministry. We have done some great things with what we have received, but I can't help but wonder – what did we miss with the 14%? More importantly, who did we miss with the message of Jesus Christ?

The staff of OUMC is working harder than ever! In fact, we are doing more than ever with two and a half less staff positions than we had just over a year ago. I praise our staff for their diligence and hard work, and I hope that you do, as well.

I live in the same world as everyone else, I simply ask each of us (and I include myself) to ask ourselves – am I putting God first in all things? In my time, is God first? With my money, is God first? I am very thankful for your support of OUMC, but as we ask ourselves these questions, perhaps we will discover that OUMC can make an even larger impact upon our communities, and a greater impact for the kingdom of God!

In Christ Jesus,

Ramón

In this Issue

Stewardship News.....	Pg. 2
Announcements.....	Pg. 3
Children's Ministry News.....	Pg. 4
Student Ministry News.....	Pg. 5
Congregational Care.....	Pg. 6
Our Stewardship.....	Pg. 7
Ministry News.....	Pg. 8

A new message series begins: **"Spiritual Freedom"**

July 4
Rev. Ramón Torres
"Set Free"

July 11
Rev. Amy Nutt
"It's a Choice"

July 18
Rev. Amy Nutt
"It's a Battle"

July 25
New Message Series begins
"You Asked For It"
Rev. Ramón Torres

Ministry Team
Leaders

Education
Team Leader
Alan McClellan

Evangelism
Team Leader
Mike & Sandi Davis

Missions Team
Leader
Bob & Becky
Lockaby

Worship
Team Leader
Robby & Shawn
Dunn

Stewardship News...

In his sermon, "The Use of Money", John Wesley states "You see the nature and extent of truly Christian prudence so far as it relates to the use of that great talent, money. Gain all you can, without hurting either yourself or your neighbor, in soul or body, by applying hereto with unintermitted diligence, and with all the understanding which God has given you; -- save all you can, by cutting off every expense which serves only to indulge foolish desire; to gratify either the desire of flesh, the desire of the eye, or the pride of life; waste nothing, living or dying, on sin or folly, whether for yourself or your children; -- and then, give all you can, or, in other words, give all you have to God."

What do you think of when you hear the word, "Stewardship"? Do you, as many others do, cringe? Why? Because it requires us to give up something very dear to us; our money. Often we feel too far stretched financially and don't think we can give anymore. Also, we may not want to be convicted, because then we may be forced to reach for our wallet and answer the true call of Jesus on our life. Yet, the simple word of stewardship is needed, because the church and the body of Christ could not function without it being proclaimed and exercised.

Why do we fear the word? Is it because it makes a necessary response from each of us that requires giving and doing when we would rather hang on to what we have. It strikes us in our comfort zone and affects immediately the way of life we like and have designed for ourselves. It might even put us in front of the mirror of duty and requirement, of responsibility, and force a response to our free gift of grace, which we would rather not give. Don't enter into a world of complacency, where, as a Christian, you just "pew sit" your way through life in your walk with Christ.

That is the beauty of grace--no strings attached. Yes, grace is given without strings attached, except for our faith. But, as the book of James proclaims, what good is it? Even a new car will deteriorate if all it does is stay parked. Without care, it will rust, degrade, and be of no value, even with 0 miles on the odometer. What good is our salvation if it is only good for comfort and security? Of course, there is no greater Comfort or Security than our faith in Christ, so, why should we worry about temporary earthly pleasures, when so much more awaits us?

Stewardship, sometimes referred to as tithing, does not need to be scary. Stewardship can be an act of love, and even fun! It can be a response to His love, which will give us much, much greater comfort than any plans or ideas on our part. Perhaps we, as Christians, want to give, but don't know how. Maybe we just need to be told that all we have is not really ours to begin with. We are just temporary stewards of His treasures, time and talents. With such a view, we may see a pleasure in giving, and see the benefits as they help build the body of Christ.

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1)

For a Christian, as Scripture proclaims, everything belongs to God. We manage His property and since everything belongs to Christ, we need to have the attitude and view that our things are His things, our stuff is His stuff. That means all that we are and all that we have are not really ours to begin with. They belong to God. So, the duty of the Christian is to learn how to become responsible givers of our Lord's resources entrusted into our care.

By the Grace of God-
Stewardship Committee

Love God, Love Others, Offer them Christ!

Announcements...

Membership Sunday-

Membership Sunday July 18- Both services- If you are interested in becoming a member of OUMC, Membership Sunday is a great time to do this as others will be joining at the same time! Of course we welcome you to join any Sunday you choose. If you would like to join or need more information, please call Jill Stansell-238-9216 or E-Mail Jill.stansell@ooltewahumc.org.

Exploring Membership Luncheon

August 15- 12:15 - 2pm

This is a class designed to answer any questions you might have about the United Methodist Church in general, as well as Ooltewah United Methodist Church. We will start lunch after the 2nd service and end the class at 2pm. This class is open to anyone interested in joining or just needing more information. Childcare and pizza will be available. If you would like to attend or need more information please call Jill Stansell-238-9216 or E-mail Jill.stansell@ooltewahumc.org.

New Mat Pilates Class Begins

Feel the need to relax and exhale your burdens? Start your day off right with God's word, prayer and allow the exercise of Pilates help you to inhale deeply! A new Pilates class be offered in the Christian Life Center beginning Wednesday, July 7th from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. The class will be offered each Monday, Wednesday and Friday thereafter for the month of July led by certified group fitness instructor and church member Lisa Willard. Each class will be centered on devotion and prayer time to ensure a balanced day. The cost of the class will be \$40.00 (covering the cost for all 11 classes) If you bring a non-church member friend to sign up for the classes, you and your friend will both receive 50% off your fee. The class is for male & females, all ages, and all levels of experience. Just bring a mat, bottled water, and have fun! To sign up for the class and to register for childcare please contact Pastor Amy Nutt at 238-9216 or amy.nutt@ooltewahumc.org

Fundraiser Opportunities for Small Groups & Mission Teams

As we gear up for the start of our Fall Wednesday night classes, beginning August 18th once again we will have opportunities available for small groups to provide the Wednesday night dinners. If your group would like to sign up for one of the Wednesday nights to provide the meal as a fundraiser, please contact Rhonda Thomasson at 238-9216 or via email office@ooltewahumc.org.

No Sing For Joy in July!

What if...

You could cut your grocery bill in half? You had plenty for your family? You could give to bless others? Time- 2- Save (Save More by Spending Less...) Couponing 101/102 - Saturday, August 7th, 9am at Ooltewah United Methodist Church. The cost of this class is \$25. Couponing 103 - 2pm (\$15). To register or for more information, visit www.time2saveworkshops.com. These workshops fill up quickly so we encourage you to register early to insure your spot.

Faith Connections

Faith Connections, July 18th at The Lantern at Morning Pointe Assisted Living in Collegedale, TN for more information please contact Bob Nash at 238-4115.

Hold the Date

Saturday, August 21st for a special evening with guest musical artist, Kim Hill and support a Ministry for Transformation, "The Next Door." Watch for more information in upcoming newsletters! See page 6 for more information.

Alpha Circle

No Alpha Circle in July!

Alpha Circle will not meet in July. We will be meeting the first Thursday in August.

OUMC Library

Our library is exploding with new books! If you haven't visited lately we think you will be delighted. The Inspirational fiction, devotional, and AV sections have really grown. There is also a full bookcase of free books. Come by the Administration Building and check it out.

UMW Mission Trip

Cleveland District UMW Mission trip to Unity Center on July 31st. We will be doing some work at the Unity Center (an outreach center to underprivileged children in Cleveland, Tn.) and learn more about their outreach ministries. We welcome OUMC women to join us. For details they may contact Barbara Graham at 894-5647 or Kathy Austin at 715-6331. Also, All UMW members are encouraged to serve in some way at Vacation Bible school. **Friendship Circle will not meet in July to allow everyone to find a place to serve at VBS.**

Craft and Home Business Fair

Looking for a great way to raise funds for a Ministry or group? We are looking for a group or person(s) to take over the "Craft and Home Business Fair" 2010 will be the 7th year for this successful event. If you are interested in more information please call Jill Stansell at 238-9216.

In helping to provide a holistic approach to a healing ministry, the Congregational Care Team would like to offer the following ministries, and community agencies as resources to you, your family and for those whose life you touch and minister to. This is not a complete list, nor do we exclusively support these agencies, rather for convenience sake, would like to provide you with some of the agencies that we have developed trusted relationships with:

If you need additional information please contact Amy Nutt at 238-9216

AAA Women's Services
892-0803

Alzheimer's Association
265-3600

Bradley Cleveland
Community Services
479-4111

Chattanooga Cares
267-2273

Children's Advocacy
Center 266-6918

Contact of Chattanooga
266-8228
(hotline &
crisis response)

First Call for Help
265-8000 or 211

First Things First
267-5383

Partnership for Families,
Children & Adults
755-2822

Respond
499-2300
(hotline &
crisis response)

Samaritan Center
238-7777

S.E. Area Agency on
Aging & Disability
424-4256

Children's Ministry News

Allison Beavers, Director of Children's Ministries



I pray that Christ will live in your hearts by faith and that your life will be strong in love and be built on love. And I pray that you and all God's holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love—how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is. Christ's love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:17-19

(New Century Version)

"OCM NEWS" OOLTEWAH'S CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



VBS – July 19-23rd

Son Rock Kids Camp – Where kids build their lives on the rock: JESUS!
(Register Now!!! at www.ooltewahumc.org)

Wanna Volunteer?

Allison Beavers 238-9216 or allison.beavers@ooltewahumc.org

Interested



If you want to be a volunteer or supporter of Ooltewah's Children's Ministry find out how...

Allison.beavers@ooltewahumc.org

Or

238-9216

What's going on with Children's Ministry....

- Additional 9:30 and 11:00 children's classes have been added to accommodate growth
- A new Sunday school format has been put in place to create a more welcoming atmosphere
- Look for a new Children's Church Format coming soon
- VBS preparation is already underway
- The children are currently raising funds to support VBS for children overseas



DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 14th : Family Movie night 6:30

July 19th-23rd : VBS 5:30-8:30

August 5th : Promotion Sunday (moving up to new classes)

School Age for July:

Virtue: Service—lending a hand to help someone else.

Memory Verse: "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men." Ephesians 6:7

Preschool for July:



Basic Truth: God loves me.

Memory Verse: "Learn to do what is right." Isaiah 1:17



Register now limited spots available!!!

We are accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year. There are a few spots left in the 3 year old room, Pre-K and Infants (6 mo. – 1 yr.). Need more information....contact Stacey Voelp @ 238-4300 or mdu@ooltewahumc.org

Student Ministry News...

Pam Wells, Director of Student Ministries

OSM in July '10

Sunday School,
every Sunday 9:30-10:30

We have co-ed classes for both Middle and High school students. These classes meet in the Christian Life Center and are led by a great group of adult volunteers who love investing in the lives of your students.

242 Small Groups

"The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared life together. They broke bread and ate together. And they prayed." Acts 2:42

Small Groups are designed so that students and their leaders have time to engage in deeper matters of life and faith.

Currently, we have a middle school co-ed group (led by Ricky Fair & Sandy Riese), a high school gals group (led by Leigha King) and a high school guys group (led by Kevin Bowling).

Groups meet on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 in the Christian Life Center. Feel free to grab some dinner and join us at 6:00 for an informal 'meal time'.

Check the OSM Board, email and texts for meeting dates in July.



VBS

July 19-23rd

Son Rock Kids Camp

Where kids build their lives on
the rock: JESUS!
Volunteers Needed!

Guides, Recreation, Snack and Crafts...
We need volunteers for it all. Contact
Allison Beavers to sign up at 238-9216
or allison.beavers@ooltewahumc.org

The Mix

Sunday nights 5:30-7:30

Dinner is served at 5:30.

Meeting On:

7/11, 7/18 & 7/25

No Mix on 7/4- Happy 4th
of July. Collegedale Fire-
works tonight!

The Mix

Dinner Schedule

See the OUMC website for current
dinner

schedule assignments.

www.ooltewahumc.org

Click on the student
ministry link.



VBS Movie Night

Wednesday, July 14

6:30 pm

The Snack Bar will be open complete with popcorn and hot dogs. All proceeds will be donated to the VBS Mission project.

Now Showing:

Open Season

Summer Volunteer Opportunity

Lunch at The Beth

Wednesday, July 21

Be in the gym at 8:30am as we prepare lunch for the Summer Literacy Program at The Bethlehem Center. We'll deliver the lunch and spend some time with the students at the center. We'll return to OUMC by 1:30pm.

OUMC Has

Pod Cast

If you have iTunes or a similar program to "catch" Podcasts then this is for you! Catch it at

www.ooltewahumc.org/podcast

Alzheimer's
Ministry

Faith Connections
Our next Faith
Connection service
will be
July 18
at
11:00 a.m.,
at the Lantern.

Alzheimer's
Support Group
This group meets
the 2nd Wednesday
of each month at
Greenbriar Cove
Community Center
at 11:30 a.m.

Congregational Care

Amy Nutt, Associate Pastor

Hope & Healing for Women in Crisis

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me'" Matthew 25:35-40. Inspiring words yet challenging. Challenging in the sense that I recently released that the word prayer is not mentioned in this scripture. I have often heard this scripture, and felt that prayer would suffice. That's what Christians do, pray for others right? True, however I believe Jesus is calling us to action along with our prayers to help open doors for the least of these.

What is "the next door" for a woman when she leaves behind her prison walls and steps out into society? When a woman leaves incarceration, she is helpless, homeless, and sometimes hopeless. Where can she go? Who will help her with the resources she needs to build a new, whole and productive life, different than the way she was living before entering incarceration? Who will provide the drink, the clothes and the care? How will she win the battle with substance abuse and live in recovery from addiction? Where will she find The Next Door?

Friends I believe we are being called to come along side a ministry program called "The Next Door." The Next Door is a residential recovery program for women coming out of incarceration and equipping women to not only recover from their addictions but to heal holistically from past wounds and celebrate a relationship with God the creator. Praise God that Chattanooga now has a program such as this to provide the Next Door. I want to hear our King say, Come you who are blessed by my Father, and I want everyone to know and experience this love and acceptance. Won't you help open the doors for those in need and do for Christ what he does for us daily?

Join us in opening doors, Saturday, August 21st at 7:00pm for an evening of worship in concert with Christian Music Artist. Kim Hill. All proceeds will benefit the women of The Next Door. Tickets will go on sale August 1st and will sale for \$10.00 each. For more information on this ministry and how you can open doors for women in need, go to www.thenextdoor.org

To God be the Glory! *Amy*

Captivating, The Heart of a Woman New Ladies Bible Study Begins July 6th

The class will study the book Captivating by Stasi Eldredge and explore who we are as women created in the image of God. Our prayer is to further enhance our understanding of God's love and grace for us as women and deepen our commitment to nurture others.

The books will be available at the first class on Tuesday, July 6th. The class will meet for the next six weeks through August 10th, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Fit One Gym located on Mtn View Road in the Activities Room. The cost of the class is \$20.00, with childcare included at the gym for ages infant to 10 yrs old.

Throughout the six week journey will we discover and explore as women, God's peace, God's assurance, God's unconditional love and God's promises. Each class will be rooted in scripture and lifted up as a time of worship and renewal filled with blessings of new relationships with your sisters of the faith community. I urge you to recharge your spiritual tank, breathe in the Holy Spirit and allow God to show you abundant Grace. For further information and to reserve your books contact Amy Nutt via email at amy.nutt@ooltewahumc.org or by calling the church office, 238-9216.



Prayer Focus for month of July Children's Ministry

Week of July 4th – Praises for our freedom in Christ

Week of July 11th – Allison Beavers, Director of Children's Ministries

Week of July 18th – VBS and for all children to come to know the Lord

Week of July 25th - Praises for all the awesome volunteers of OUMC!

"Prayer is not preparation for the work; prayer is the work." - Oswald Chambers

Our Stewardship

Vital Signs through June

Sunday School/Small Group Attendance..... 236
Average Worship Attendance 553

Our Gifts

Ministry, Program and New Building Budget
\$1,369,963.00

Received to Date..... \$551,129.00
Expenditures to Date..... \$558,868.00

Faith Promise

Total Pledged..... \$46,446.00
Given to Date..... \$20,601.00

Designated Special Giving

(Share & Care, Congregational Care, Mission Trips, etc.)
Given to Date \$41,062.00

Christian Sympathy

We express our Christian Sympathy to Willie and Dennie Moore in the death of Willie's sister, Dolly Maddox.

Prayer Concerns...

- Tes Wasson, undergoing test
- Virginia Poe, at home battling liver disease
- Dan Clippinger at home battling signs of Alzheimer's
- Charles Clay, in MICU at Memorial Hospital in critical condition with congestive heart failure
- Joshua Rice, 7 year old member undergoing chemotherapy for cancer at TC Thompsons'
- Please keep in prayer all our church members and extended families that have recently lost jobs
- Our military personnel serving around the world



VBS Movie Night

Wednesday, July 14

6:30 pm

The Snack Bar will be open complete with popcorn and hot dogs. All proceeds will be donated to the VBS Mission project.

Now Showing:
Open Season

New Members

Dillard and Kathy Edgemon
8354 Rambling Rose Drive
Ooltewah TN 37363

Ken and Judy Latham
7472 Miss Madison Way
Ooltewah TN 37363

Eric and Heidi Marshall
Landon and William
1140 Candies Creek Road
McDonald TN 37353

Robert and Rachel Banks
7062 Buttercup Lane
Ooltewah TN 37363

Ronnie and Deanna Sunderland
Laci and Noah
14 Knollwood Circle Apt 10D
Ringgold GA 30736

Alan and Katherine Lane
Logan and Zachary
4435 Johnson Road
Birchwood TN 37308

Bill and Linda Ross
6316 Micasa Lane
Ooltewah TN 37363

Joyce Lusk
P.O. Box 453
Ooltewah TN 37363

Church Staff

Ramón Torres Pastor
Amy Nutt Associate Pastor
Eric Light Director of Connectional Ministries
Ryan Beavers Director Worship and Media Arts
Farah Claxton Associate Director of Music
Pam Wells Director of Student Ministries
Allison Beavers Director of Children's Ministries
Stacey Voelp Children's Ministry Assistant/MDO
Jill Stansell Congregational Care/Membership Development
Rhonda Thomasson Administrative Secretary
Sarah Roach Business Manager
Todd Hibbard Accompanist
Ted Wasson Maintenance Supervisor

E-mail Addresses

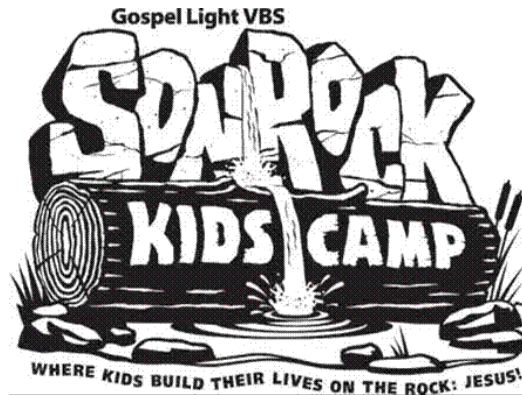
Ramón Torres ramon.torres@ooltewahumc.org
Amy Nutt amy.nutt@ooltewahumc.org
Eric Light eric.light@ooltewahumc.org
Ryan Beavers ryan.beavers@ooltewahumc.org
Farah Claxton farah.claxton@ooltewahumc.org
Pam Wells osm@ooltewahumc.org
Allison Beavers allison.beavers@ooltewahumc.org
Stacey Voelp mdo@ooltewahumc.org
Jill Stansell jill.stansell@ooltewahumc.org
Rhonda Thomasson office@ooltewahumc.org
Sarah Roach sarah.roach@ooltewahumc.org
Web site www.ooltewahumc.org

Online giving is now available!
If you would like to financially support OUMC using electronic giving just head to www.ooltewahumc.org/give.

"I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and do all in my power to strengthen its ministries by my prayers, my presence, my gifts, and my service."

Purpose Statement

To bring people to Jesus, develop them to Christ-like maturity, equip them for their ministry in the church and their life mission in the world, in order to magnify God.



VBS

July 19th -23rd

Son Rock Kids Camp -

Where kids build their lives on the rock: JESUS!

(Register Now!!! at www.ooltawahumc.org)

Wanna Volunteer?

Allison Beavers 238-9216 or allison.beavers@ooltawahumc.org

6131 Relocation Way
Ooltewah, TN 37363
423.238.9218
Fax 423.238.9238
Address Service Requested

