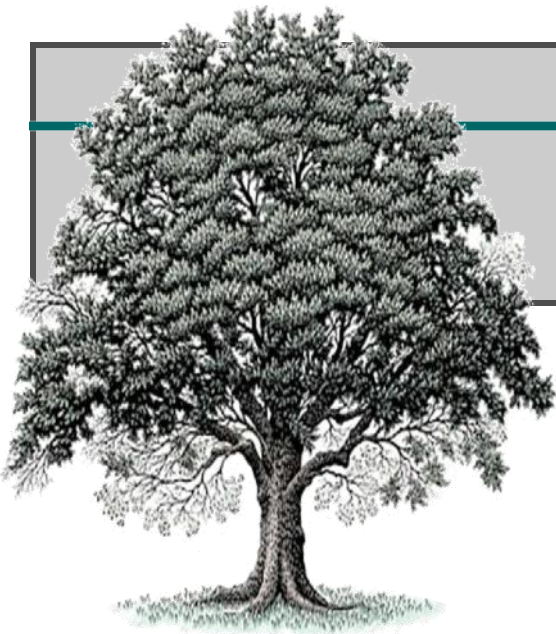


# OAKLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST

## THE FOCUS NEWSLETTER

November 2011



### *What's happening...*

#### **November**

- 6 - No Timeless Treasure potluck this month (*plan to attend the Church Thanksgiving dinner on 20th*)
- 6 - Daylight Savings Time ends...remember to set your clock back one hour (an extra hour of sleep!)
- 8 - Ladies' breakfast, Bible Study at Biedler's 9:30 AM
- 11 - Veterans Day
- 11th-13th - Craft retreat at Grove Camp (*see page 4*)
- 20 - All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner – everyone is welcome (*see page 6*)
- 24 - Thanksgiving Day
- 26 - Ladies' breakfast, Bible Study at Biedler's 9:30 AM

# WELCOME!

**W**e want to welcome our new brother in Christ, Wayne Wade, who was baptized into Christ October 11, 2011.

**Life with Christ  
is an Endless Hope;  
without Christ, a hopeless end!**

*...saying found in a Bible*

#### **TWINKIES AND ROOT BEER**

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer and he started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted!

They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

*...author unknown*



## **A Message From Our Minister ... Kristofer Tripp**

### **Gratitude**

**L**ike most Americans, they valued their stuff, their independence, and their privacy. In a few short minutes, they lost everything.

Randy Gariss told us all about it. He's the lead minister of College Heights Christian Church in Joplin, Missouri. About eighty ministers from around Oregon gathered, and listened as he told the story.

The tornado touched down Sunday evening May 22. It destroyed everything in a one mile wide, seven mile long path in the center of the city. "Take a garbage disposal, and drag it through your community," Randy said.

Later Randy provided some excellent guidelines on preparing for disasters as a church, and what a church should do when a disaster hits. Advice. Guidance. But those weren't the best things Randy gave us.

Perspective. Randy gave us perspective. His story, his first-hand account of 8,000 households without homes, of no phone service, of 20-hour days serving the affected, of 8,000 volunteers who went looking for the missing...his story gave us perspective.

### **Oranges**

Let me share my perspective with you.

I grew up during a recession, but I never noticed. My needs were always met.

Even at Christmas, I usually got what I wanted. Notice the word "wanted." In addition to the presents, we each had a stocking with little treats in it. And every year, my stocking had a big ball-shaped thing at the bottom, in the toe. An orange. It seemed out of place, buried beneath all the sweet, unhealthy candy, but there it was, every year.

Today, as I am still processing the story of Joplin, Missouri, I think about my Christmas orange. That orange reminds me that I have what I need. Some people do not have what they need. They are living in their own personal disaster zones. Some people don't even have an orange to their name.

I'm already making this year's Christmas list. Oh, it's not stuff I want, it's stuff for my family and friends. I can think of lots of things that they want, and I'd like to be Santa Claus and get it for them. And hey, if I get to enjoy those gifts too, well that's just icing on

the cake.

But it's still *stuff*. I think I need to worry more about what people *need*.

John, baptizing in the river Jordan, told people "If you have two shirts, give one to someone who has no shirts. If you have food, share with hungry people." The first Christians sold real estate and valuables to make sure no one was in need. The first official ministry in the church was feeding widows, and the first official offering was to help the poor in Jerusalem. (see Luke 3:11, Acts 2:44-45, Acts 4:34-35, Acts 6:1-6, and Acts 11:29)

### **Trading out**

As I look at my Christmas list, I'm going to trade something out. Something big. Something I was going to get for my family or friends, I'm not going to. Not something cheap like a piece of candy. I'm thinking more like a video game or jewelry. (While I'm at it, I don't need that four DVD set).

I'll take the money I was going to spend on the gift, and make it a real gift. I'll give it to someone who *needs* it.

Care to join me? Wondering how to give this lump of money? Here are some ideas.

- Sutherlin/Oakland Emergency Pantry 541-459-4082 – donate food, necessities, or money.
- Thanksgiving food baskets – bring non-perishable food, or money (for perishable food) by Nov 20. The church and the City of Oakland will deliver food boxes near Thanksgiving.
- Giving Tree –Look for the tree at the end of this month. Take a tag, buy the food or necessities listed, and return them by Dec 21. Our High School Youth Group will deliver them before Christmas.

These are just a few ways to help your neighbors. Keep your eyes open and you'll see plenty more.

**We do not remember days,  
but moments.  
Life moves too fast,  
so enjoy your precious moments.**

## WRITE A CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER THAT WILL BRING GLORY TO GOD

**A** Christmas newsletter is a terrific way to put Christ back into Christmas. Because our society is morphing the celebration of Christmas into a materialistic frenzy, with no mention of the reason we are celebrating – the birth of our savior Jesus Christ – a Christmas newsletter is a great way to remind every person we send Christmas greetings to why we are celebrating.

However, the only Christmas gift more maligned than a Christmas newsletter, is a fruitcake. Sending a newsletter costs you both time and money, so make sure that your newsletter will be welcomed by its recipients.

Your newsletter is a gift. Just as you would not crochet a shoddy afghan with strings and gaping holes in it to give as a present, you should not send a slipshod newsletter either. Make the effort to create a quality newsletter; your reader's time is valuable, don't waste it.

Few writers create good work in a hurry, so start early. Throughout the year, jot down important events and thoughts that you may want to include. By October or November at the latest, you should be composing your rough draft. Yes, I said rough draft.

Computers make editing easy, edit your letter multiple times and have at least one other person edit it as well. Always let the letter sit for at least a day, and then when you look at it later you will see needed changes that were not obvious before. Reading the letter aloud will help you spot errors as well.

Allow the people who you are writing about (typically your husband and children) to have the opportunity to read and veto or add to what you say about them. Newsletters should never embarrass or hurt the feelings of someone you care about. Check to see

if your newsletter reflects positively on our Savior.

Be real, no one wants to read a year's worth of bragging. By the same token, people don't want to be dragged down by all your problems either. If you are going through a tough time when you are writing your letter, take the time to stop and jot down many of God's blessings in your life before you start writing.

Nothing is more daunting to the reader than an entire page of text in small font. Use pictures to illustrate your points. Always label photos; what is so obvious to you, may be unfamiliar to your reader. A Christmas newsletter is not the place for a collage.

If you cannot afford to print a color newsletter with pictures, at least organize your letter into categories with titles, and print it on Christmas-themed stationery. Rather than a litany of your children and grandchildren's accomplishments, consider using cute quotes. What are the high points of your year? What are the low points? What is an average day like for you? Have you tried something new this year? Are there any major changes? What have you been learning in your walk with Christ? How has God blessed you?

It is best to limit your newsletter to one page. Be brief and concise, no one wants to know what you had for dinner yesterday. Never send more than two pages. Take advantage of templates on your computer to help you organize your letter. If you must do two pages, consider setting it up brochure style. Above all, always add a handwritten note with your signature. If someone is not important enough to you to add a personalized note, don't send them your newsletter, just send a card (preferably one which focuses on Jesus).

Take the time to do quality work, be real, and feel free to use your creativity and humor so that your newsletter will be more welcome than a fruitcake.

...by Carol Miller

## What Books Do We Have???

Thanks to Lee Jorgensen we now have a list of the books we have in the church library.

The list is printed in three ways:

1. By the author
2. By the title of the book
3. By the location in library



Come and check out books from your OCC library!

**Thanks also to Linnea Thomason for keeping our OCC library organized.**

**However...**we've found books missing that have not been checked out. So if you have a library book checked out or not and you are through with it, please return it. If you have a book or books and you still want to keep them, please let Linnea, Lee or the church office know the name and title so we get it checked out to you.

Thank you for your help and cooperation! Come and check out your books.

## Missions update:

### Thanksgiving Food baskets

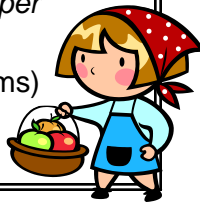
For November we will be focusing on a local mission project targeting the Oakland area of those who are in need of extra food at this Thanksgiving time. Please bring non-perishable food and items that can be used in the homes. You can also donate money towards perishable items like meat, fresh fruit and vegetables, cheese, rolls, bread, etc. We will be combining with the local schools, City of Oakland employees, and the Presbyterian Church who will also be collecting food and other items to be delivered to homes before Thanksgiving.

If you know of any who could use a food basket, please contact the church office ASAP and feel free to start bringing food and money donations the first part of November to the church at any time.

If questions please, call the church office. Thank you for being generous.

Suggested items: *canned fruits and vegetables, soups, cereals, oatmeal, pancake mix, juice drinks, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, paper towel, tooth paste, shampoo, etc.*

(Remember we cannot use outdated items)



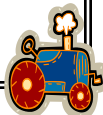
### Hayride/Caroling

Hayride/Caroling will be December 21<sup>st</sup>, the last Wednesday evening before Christmas. If you are interested in helping, please let the Church office know. We need many adults to supervise on the trailers.

Thank you for your help – without your help we could not do this event. The Hayride/Caroling is for regular attendees of Sunday School and Wednesday Evening Classes and their friends. We divide the trailers by classes; high school, junior high, 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>s</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Then we divide the adults among all the rides. High School Youth Group has their youth leaders as their chaperones.

We'd like all teachers and helpers and other interested adults to come along. They will be practicing songs beginning the first of November on Wednesday nights. We sing just the first verse of the popular Christian Christmas songs. Words are also printed out on paper.

Bring your flashlights, warm clothing, maybe rain gear and umbrellas.



Three Cheers for Volunteers!

Honoring....Steve and

Leann Cottier

Many people volunteer for big and small jobs here at OCC because this church could not operate without them.

Matthew 23: 11-12 says, "The greatest among you will be your servant. For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Matthew 20:28 says, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Steve and Leann Cottier and family have recently expressed their desire to fellowship here at OCC. They have jumped right in to help. I've seen Steve covering for Eric on the Communion and greeter/usher ministry when Eric is gone. Steve is currently working with the Junior High boys (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders) and Leann is working with Robin with the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders both on Wednesday nights. Leann is also helping with share-a-meal on Wednesday nights as well. Welcome aboard Cottiers and thank you for blessing us with your service.

### Grove Christian Camp Craft Retreat:

November 11th-13th (Fri-Sun) will be a craft retreat at Grove camp. Painting, sewing, quilting, photography, cross stitch, scrap booking, Christmas cards and letters, etc. are some of the craft projects people will be working on. Mark your calendars and join this fun retreat.

Spend a quiet, relaxing weekend working on your projects that you can't find time to get done at home. They are planning a fun-filled event with prizes, contests, classes and lots of laughter.

Fill out a registration form that is on the mailbox table and leave it at the church office along with a \$25.00 deposit or mail it in yourself. The total cost is \$65.00 which includes housing, meals and programming.

**This Book will keep you from sin,  
and sin will keep you from this book.**

*...saying found in a Bible*

## The Library Corner

...by Linnea Thomason



Sometimes the challenges of daily life blur our eyes to our true heart's desire. Buffeted by T.V., magazine, and internet ads daily, it is truly very easy to lose focus on the prize of life. Heaven is that prize.

Heaven is no mere consolation prize to take our minds off of the hardships, tragedy and suffering of this life. Through Christ, our suffering is transformed and redeemed. It is made manifest in the final restoration of Heaven. What God offers is *resurrection*—a restoration, a making right of all that is wrong, redemption. Jesus said in effect, "I am the resurrection and the life—you have not lost your loved one to the void. He still IS. He is still Himself. You will be reunited (sooner than you think, by the way), and not have to be merely content with His memory, or with hunting for Him in some future life. Yes, you are parted, so grieve for the parting. But the parting is temporary. Death *is* an enemy, and it is right to acknowledge it as such, but it is not a victorious enemy, because it will be and is defeated, by Me."

This month's book selections are stories that are intended to remind us about the reality of heaven; in a new and powerful way. Our first book has been donated by Myrleen Christensen. A short and easy read but very powerful in its impact on the reader!

*Heaven is for Real*.... Is the title of an intriguing new little book written by *Todd Burpo*. *Heaven Is for Real* is the true story of the four-year-old son, Colton, of a small town Nebraska pastor who during emergency surgery slips from consciousness and enters heaven. He survives and begins talking about being able to look down and see the doctor operating and his dad praying in the waiting room. The family didn't know what to believe but soon the evidence was clear. Colton said he met his miscarried sister, whom no one had told him about, and his great grandfather who died 30 years before Colton was born, then shared impossible-to-know details about each. He describes the horse that only Jesus could ride, about how "reaaally big" God and his chair are, and how the Holy Spirit "shoots down power" from Heaven to help us.

Told by the father, but often in Colton's own words, the disarmingly simple message is heaven is a real place, Jesus really loves children, and be ready, there is a coming last battle."

Our second book is a compilation of great Christian authors, poets & thinkers. *A Glimpse of Heaven: Through the Eyes of C. S. Lewis, Dr.*

*Tony Evans, Calvin Miller, Randy Alcorn, J. Oswald Sanders, John Wesley, and Others.* "What is heaven? What really happens when our days here on earth come to an end? Heaven, in this book, is referred to by different names: **paradise, eternity, the afterlife, the new Jerusalem, resurrection**. Throughout the ages Christians have wondered about it, longed for it, inquired into it, meditated on it, preached about it, and written about it in poems and songs. Some of these "wonderings" are gathered in this remarkable collection of varied passages from Christians across the centuries and from all walks of life. Brief biographies of the contributors are also included, making this book a rich resource.

After reading *A Glimpse of Heaven* you will yearn for the blessings of heaven. "**Not even the most learned philosopher or theologian knows what it is going to be like. But there is one thing which the simplest Christian knows -- it is going to be all right. Somewhere, somewhen, somehow we who are worshiping God here will wake up to see Him as He is, and face to face.**" -- John Baillie (1886-1960) "**What a pleasure is there in the heavenly kingdom, without fear of death; and how lofty and perpetual a happiness with eternity of living!**" -- Cyprian (200-258) "**The death incident is merely a passage from earth life, from the womb that has contained you until now, into the marvelous newness of heaven life.**" -- *Joseph Bayly, Heaven, 1977.* The Bible may only give us glimpses into eternity, but we can be sure of one thing: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9). From the literary and poetic to the humorous and scholarly, these classic and contemporary reflections offer a glorious, wide-angled view of heaven -- full of insight, truth, hope, worship, and utter anticipation! This book will focus on the hope of every believer and will comfort every heart.

I have also selected a couple of other books that are already in the library such as *Don Piper's; 90 Minutes in Heaven*. One more believer's journey through accident, injury and near death to a deeper faith & and certainty that heaven truly is going to be worth all that we go through here. Hebrews 3:1 & 6 "And so, dear brothers and sisters who belong to God and are partners with those called to heaven, think carefully about this Jesus whom we declare to be God's messenger and High Priest. But Christ, as the Son, is in charge of God's entire house. And we are God's house, if we keep our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ."



## Spotlight on... Nancy Leonard

Nancy was raised in Iowa on a farm south of Winterset. She walked to a one-room schoolhouse about a mile and half for grade school. She has a younger brother four years younger than she, John Nair, who has three children and lives in Chicago. The family attended church in the country. When her father passed away in 1954 her mother and the children moved to the town of Winterset where she rode a bus and attended high school and graduated in 1956. She attended a Methodist church and filled in as preschool Sunday School teacher, but was baptized as a teenager at the Church of Christ in Winterset.

Nancy attended nurses training at Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa and graduated in 1959 and then worked at that hospital for a year.

Nancy and a fellow nurse and parents traveled to the east coast to visit her friend's brother who was in the Navy. When they returned, Nancy and her friend drove to Portland, OR (now having traveled coast to coast). Both girls found jobs at Good Samaritan Hospital in 1960. Two of their nursing classmates got jobs in San Francisco, California and two got jobs in Tacoma, Washington so they visited back and forth.

Did you know that most of the people where Nancy was working paired her with her future husband Larry Leonard (a patient who had 21 surgeries on his left hand after an injury) before they even met? They all thought they'd make a good couple. Nancy eventually became his nurse. They were married in Coquille, Oregon, at the Methodist Church, May 14, 1961 by a minister, Reverend Bovee, that had also been a patient of Nancy's at the hospital.

Nancy and Larry have one daughter, Candy McCormick, who is a Veterinarian technician at Bailey Veterinary clinic. Candy and her husband live in the old Leonard farmhouse on Tyee Road which Larry still owns. Candy has one daughter, Krystal Hammer, who has given Nancy two great-granddaughters, Emily and Mylee Hammer. Krystal and husband and girls live in the Rice Hill area north of Oakland.

Nancy worked as a nurse at Mercy Hospital, and at Dr. Lindell's office, Dr. Sacks office and finally at Sutherlin Clinic. Since she's retired she's volunteered with Mercy Hospice.

Nancy enjoys yard work and her garden and she enjoys quilting on Wednesdays here at the church.

[www.oaklandcc.net](http://www.oaklandcc.net)

She also has been a conservator for Larry's two aunts for 10 years. The remaining aunt, who is 100 years old, is now residing at Chantel's Loving Care in Sutherlin.

Larry owned his own logging business, *Larry Leonard Logging*. When he added a partner they became *Leonard/Maze Logging* with Nancy doing the bookkeeping and payroll. His partner bought Larry out when he retired.

Nancy's words of wisdom are to try to stay healthy. She has been a member of OCC since we've moved to the new building when Don Henderson was the minister here .

**Beware (or.. be aware) – when I ask if I can come over and visit – you may be in the next **Spotlight** !**

...by Janet Baimbridge



## Thank you Janice Cox

Janice has been the OCC office assistant since August of 2008. Janice feels she needs to spend more time at home with family needs at this time so she has resigned here at OCC.

Janice has done much of the behind-the-scenes work here in the office. These examples are only a few of the many jobs Janice has done:

- Typed the Focus each month and copied and mailed it out;
- Typed the bulletin, inserts, etc. and copied them;
- Filed worship music each week;
- Made copies and copies and more copies;
- Sent out your birthday, anniversary, get-well and sympathy cards;
- Organized posters, and pictures; and
- Kept bulletin boards updated.

The list could go on and on. Thank you very much for your time here at OCC.

## Thanksgiving Dinner...



**W**ill be 1:15...as quickly as we can get it set out. Signup sheets for food will be on the welcome counter the first week of November

**We especially need six people to prepare large turkeys.**

# STATS...

## Month of... September

Average Worship Attendance	97
Average Sun School Attendance	39
Average Wed Night Attendance	68
Year to Date as of Sept. 2011	
Income Offerings	\$ 120,489.08
General Fund Expenses	\$ 150,687.92
Budget	\$ 145,968.75

## OCC WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### Sunday

9:15 AM **Sunday School** classes for all ages

10:30 AM **Worship Service** (nursery for babies and Children's Church for ages 2 - 4th grades)  
Linger Longer follows

*see H.O.M.E. Groups in next column*

### Wednesday

6:30 PM **Share-A-Meal** at OCC

7 PM **Groups** for ages 2 - Adults

### Thursday

9 AM **Ladies Prayer** & 10 AM **Bible Study**

Vicki Smith's home

1030 Foster Avenue/Sutherlin

541-459-3914

6:30 PM **Worship Practice**

OCC

Information: Carol Block ~ 541-673-6583

### Friday

6:30 AM **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study**

Apple Peddler

185 Ponderosa Dr/ Sutherlin

Information: Richard Carter ~ 541-459-1634

### Saturday

9:30 AM **Ladies' Bible Breakfast Club**

\* 2nd/4th Saturdays

Gloria Beidler's home

728 Sandpiper Court/Sutherlin

Information: Linda Weldon ~ 541-643-8228

We invite you to join us for a variety of studies and activities during the week. There is something for everyone! Need information? Need transportation? Please call 541-459-4447.

### Office hours:

**Mon-Thurs 8 AM - 2:30 PM and Fri 8 AM - Noon**

## HOME GROUPS

### Sunday

**Group Leader: Steve Baimbridge**

Meet at OCC at 6 PM

541-459-4677

**Group Leaders: Don & Carol Block**

Meet in their home at 6 PM

715 Strauss Ave/Winchester

541-673-6583

**Group Leader: John Crain**

Meet at Ken & Shirley Brown's home at 5 PM

411 SE Pear St/Oakland

541-459-8738

**Group Leader: Eric Lanning**

Meet at Joel & Connie Humphrey's home at 5 PM

216 SE 7th St/Oakland

541-817-2835

**Group Leaders: Richard Carter & Dave Weldon**

Meet at Dave & Linda Weldon's home at 6 PM

2270 Eagle Loop/Sutherlin

541-459-1634 or 541-643-9558



# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SS all ages 9:15 AM Worship w/ Nursery and Children's Church 10:30 AM Linger Longer following			Share-A-Meal 6:30 PM Classes Age 2-Adults 7 PM	Worship Practice 6:30 PM	Men's Breakfast Apple Peddler 6:30 AM	Women's Breakfast Club Bible Study 2nd & 4th Saturdays 9:30AM
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Daylight Savings Time Ends	7	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12
					Craft Retreat at Grove Camp	
13  Craft Retreat at Grove Camp	14	15	16	17	18	19
20  All-church Thanksgiving dinner	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day  Church office closed	25	26
27	28	29	30			