

UMM

PURPOSE

- Mission Support
- Fellowship
- Spiritual Growth
- Community Service

Note:

All men of Oakdale Emory are members of UMM.

All meals are free. We invite donations to support mission programs.

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VOLUME 2

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2011

New UMM Officers for 2011



Dick Harris—Pres., Dick Stevenson—V.P., Ray Johnson—Sec., Ron Hoggard—Treas., Jim Hitchcock—Chaplain

Inauguration

Joe Hoover, President for the past year, presided over a very nice dedication ceremony for new officers at the monthly dinner on December 7.

Dick Harris - President. He is best known for organizing the annual mulch sale for the past five years. His efforts in 2010 raised over \$2,100 to support UMM missions. His goal is to increase meeting attendance. He and his wife, Vivian, have been at Oakdale since 1994. Dick has worked as a chemist at NIST studying fire retardant materials for 24 years.

Dick Stevenson, Vice President and Program Chair, joined Oakdale with his wife, Margo, in 2001. Since then he has served on the Staff / Parrish Relations Council, with one year as chair. He has sang in the Sanctuary Choir for 9 years and served as Membership Pastor for 1.5 years. He also served as Stephen Ministry Leader and on the Pastoral Visitation Team. He has served as Omelet Chef with Jim Hitchcock. His hobbies include singing with the National Christian Choir, travel, golf, and family.

Ray Johnson, Secretary, is starting his sixth year. Ray joined Oakdale with his wife, MaryAnn, in 1973. He has been a Certified Lay Speaker, Lay Leader, Sunday School Superintendant, bible study, Lenten study, and retreat leader. He chaired the Council on Ministries for 3 years, led the Open Door Sunday School class for 6 years and the New Member Program for 7 years. He has been a Stephen Minister since 2003, Master's plan and Building Committee, and on the Pastoral Visitation Team, Welcoming Committee, Disciple 1, and First and Ten. (continued on page 2)

Dick Stevenson - Guest Speaker - Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011



Dick will lead a discussion about UMM programs for 2011. He would like to find speakers who will share how the Holy Spirit works in their lives and their professions.

Join us for a wonderful dinner at 7 pm or come to hear the speaker at 8 pm and enjoy some dessert.

As usual we look forward to fellowship and a time of devotion with our new Chaplain, Jim Hitchcock.

Country Breakfast Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011

All you can eat omelets, eggs, pancakes, waffles, bacon, sausage, etc.

Freewill Donations Support UMM Missions



New Officers for 2011



Ron Hoggard

Ron Hoggard, Treasurer. He and his wife, Geri, joined Oakdale in 1993. He worked with the youth group for many years before starting as UMM Treasurer in 2002. He has worked in the Emergency Department of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital since 2004. His hobbies include golf and gardening.

Jim Hitchcock - Chaplain. He and his wife, Beth, joined Oakdale in 2000. He has served on the Board of Trustees, Technical Team, Stephen Ministry, Pastoral Visitation Team, Coordinator for Dinners for Eight, and Disciple 1 and 2. He served as UMM President and started as first Chef for made-to-order omelets at UMM breakfasts.

Joe Hoover - Reflections of a (Very) Outgoing President

Four score and seven years ago, actually in 2006, a no good varmint "walked across the room" from his usual seat on the right side of the sanctuary to my special seat, on the end, four rows from the back, left side.

It was then and there that Robert Rosenberger suggested that I come to the UMM meeting the next week. Now, why should I do that, I asked? Wendy and I had been attending OEUMC on and off since 1990, and we had been "church shopping."

Now, this homey cheese wants me to give up my personal time and go mingle with Methodist Men miscreants of all things. How dare he!!

Well, he dared me and I attended and found there's no goin' back to the days where I thought my time was more important than attending a meeting with a group of men who, by giving their time, treasures and talents, helped support the many missions so vital to Oakdale and the community. I have now met and call these friends the most wonderful confidants that a man would ever need.



I immediately took to the likes of Meredith Page, Alden English, and Skip, Schoening, stalwarts of UMM, and I soon enlisted in UMM breakfasts where I was immediately placed on probation by Chef Ray Fanara. Not that I had earned demerits on the first day, but the Chef said all of his subordinates are placed on probation. Primo Molinari still remains on probation after many years of KP duty.

Initially, I was the gopher, gettin' pancake batter for Chef, silverware and butter for Ira Branson, and eggs for Vern Steele. I was never permitted to even be near Meredith and the bacon makin' he

was involved with. I loved those breakfasts and the camaraderie where everyone jus' kicked in and knew what to do without being begged. The fellowship and kindred spirits will never be matched, and I am truly blessed to be and to have been a part of the breakfast fellowship. But, as fate would have it, I got off being a probie and was awarded bacon makin' duties cuz Chef Ray thought if I kept my mouth full of bacon,



Jim Hitchcock

UMM Officers:

Dick Harris - President

Dick Stevenson - V. President

Ron Hoggard - Treasurer

Ray Johnson - Secretary and Newsletter Editor

Jim Hitchcock - Chaplain

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I could not get in trouble in the kitchen by distracting the charge at hand, feedin' the hungry.

Well, I never sausage a difference in my attitude, not to mention my weight. I was fryin' and grillin' until one day I thought I got caught eatin' too much of the proceeds when that no good Skip Schoening spun me around and with his hands held out with palms up, he asked me if I would consider becoming UMM Vice President. Well, I was so taken that he didn't chastise me for suckin' up all the bacon that I forthwithedly agreed.

I have been told many times that it was a mistake for me, a big, dumb ole country boy, to accept leadership of such a prestigious group of men. Here I was in the big city at a big city church, and now I was VP and then movin' on up to be Prez.

All I had was a crayon to color (write) with, no shoes and didn't even know what a computer was, much less e-mail. How would I survive?

I survived because good Christian men named: Mark Aebig, Bill Alderton, Willard Alderton, Tim Anderson, John Adamo, Vince Arillo, Bill Baber, John Brookbank, Ray Brubacher, Waldo Blake, Sam Beatty, Gene Brannock, Ira Branson, Allen Cassity, Corky Calhoun, Brent Carlson, Paul Christiansen, Bill Dodd, Alden English, Lloyd Eshenour, Marty Eley, Ray Fanara, Tom Fogle, Rob Forsyth, Dale Ford, Luis Franco, Mike Green, Jim Hitchcock, Eric Hoggard, Ron Hoggard, Joe Hess, Dick Harris, James Harris, Denny Heinbuch, Don Hill, Jim Holland, Ron Howard, Ray Johnson, Mark Huff, Sam

Jones, Bob Kimball, Mike Lears, Joe Long, Don Lawson, Dave Lennox, Craig Lopsonzski, Sam Goodman, Peter Martineau, Jim Morgan, Ed McGeogh, Tom Masser, Tom Marshall, Jim McCullough, Ed McCaffrey, Primo Molinari, Jim McGlaughlin, Jerry Mills, Ed Mayne, Bob Nordstrom, John Myers, Bill Nullmeyer, Larry Pendleton, Meredith Page, Daehwa Park, Tom Price, Curt Render, Sudhir Rao, Rob Riddle, Dick Stevenson,

Skip Schoening, Vern Schinski, Ken Schroeder, Mel Sessa, Louis Smith, Vern Steele, Chuck Trimmer, Glen Williams, Delmas Wood, Bob White, Mike Weaver and many, many others were there to support UMM and me. These men were **always** there to sacrifice and help, *always*!!!!

So, as I turn over the gavel to Dick, Dick, Ray, Ron, and Jim, I do so knowing that I am better for being associated with such a fine group of good Christian men who remain united in the service of Oakdale Emory,. For that, I am truly blessed...I love you all ..

And, there's another varmint for whom I am grateful. Twas a time when I left the parking lot after church and that was it until next Sunday Now, as I leave, I think about Kevin's sermon, his powerful prayers and him always taking a few moments for me. I travel home still thinkin' of the words, during the week too, and up until next Sunday.

Kevin has impacted my faith in an unprecedented way. I am becoming a better Christian man because of Kevin's belief in me and prayers and patience for me. "God, continue to bless Kevin and his work at Oakdale."

Joe Hoover

(now sent out to pasture with the rest of past UMM presidents)



UMM Set Up Nativity - 2010

Skip Schoening guided the UMM set up of the nativity, as he has done for so many years.

Helpers included: Tony Ryan, Bob May, Vernon Steele, Jay Jordon and son Scott, Brian Finan, and others.



Breakfast with Santa, 12/4/10



Jim Holland



Santa (Joe Hoover) with Lawrie Branson and Granddaughter



Over 210 enjoyed breakfast on 12/4



Luis Franco and Joe Long made over 120 Omelets. We collected \$1,366 for missions



Bill Alderton, Proud Grandfather



Table Decorations



Vern Schinksi - waffles



Mel Sessa and Alden English

**Wendy Hoover -
keeping photo records**



**Chef Ray
Fanara -
pancakes**

**Jerry Mills
- scrambled
eggs**



Primo Molinari - KP



Invitation for UMM Pledges - At the January meeting, Ray Johnson will propose an opportunity for UMM to make annual pledges to support Missions. This is a voluntary option for consideration by all, especially for those not able to participate in the UMM fundraising activities, such a breakfasts, mulch sales, etc. Checks can be made to OEUMC-UMM.

UMM Devotional December 7, 2010

Bob Nordstrom, UMM Chaplain

With joyful hearts we take this season of Christmas upon us and sing *"O come, let us adore him,"* words written around 1743 by John F. Wade. But what do those words really mean? *"O come, let us adore him."* To some, I am sure they represent an impulse to throw a few dollars into the Salvation Army Red Kettle. To others these words might stir a sense of obligation to come to church on Christmas Eve. I am certain that these words mean much more to all of us in this room tonight.

Jesus himself taught us what it means to adore him. Time after time, he showed his disciples by word and deed what it means to adore him. Simply, to adore Jesus is to follow Jesus and become a true disciple. *"Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men,"* Mark 1:17. This is not a light and passive action that can be taken by the casual Christian. This is a full time dedication to discipleship. To adore Jesus takes more than to recognize him as Lord. *"Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven,"* Matthew 7: 21.

The path of true discipleship is narrow and filled with dangers. This has been a theme that I have tried to encompass in my devotionals throughout the past year. Recall these words from Matthew 19: 16 – 22: Jesus told the rich young man, *"If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*



Indeed, Jesus tells us how to adore him, but he also tells us that this will not be an easy task. If we are to adore him, we must be prepared to endure many hardships. The bonds of fellowship that we find here in our United Methodist Men's group give each of us the strength to stand and say, *"Yes Lord, I do adore you on your terms, and I will follow you."*

We have come to the end of another calendar year, marking an end to the responsibilities of leadership for many of us. But this time also represents the commencement of responsibilities for others.

We are blessed to have the leadership of Dick Harris as president in the coming year, and I am certain that Jim Hitchcock will fill the role of UMM chaplain in ways that I have overlooked. Blessings on both of you.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, you fill this place with your presence and your love. Words alone cannot begin to show our appreciation for all that you give to us. We ask that you fill our hearts with a true spirit of discipleship and that you give us the strength to follow your word.

We pray for the leaders of our Methodist Men's group and for the growing spirit of fellowship that we all experience while we are here. Grant us the gift of your lasting peace in the coming year, and hold each of us in the palm of your hand for all eternity. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

Bill Nullmeyer, Co-Lay Leader, Gives Heartfelt Message of Faith to UMM on 12/7/10

How Did I Become a Lay Leader?

I am thrilled and excited to be here tonight. How I came to be Lay Leader is a story of faith. Jim Holland asked me first to become a Lay Leader and after my initial surprise, I turned to God in prayer. I was not sure I was ready for such a commitment and I turned Jim down. After more prayer and God's answer in the form of a second request from Dave Young, Chair of the Church Council, I accepted with trepidation.

I hope this story shows my belief in prayer and how God led me here. I look for signs from God in my life and I find that I can turn to him in prayer for everything. I know he can forgive me and He is my Pilot, my Go-to Guy, my Hero, and my Compass. I go to Him in prayer frequently, fervently, honestly, and openly. I depended upon Him to guide me in my decision to become a Lay Leader.

What Does a Lay Leader Do?

I asked this question of Pastor Baker. He said that I am to serve as an intermediary between the professional staff and the congregation. The staff have a goal to make Oakdale something special. The congregation also has certain expectations. However, the staff may not be in tune with those expectations. This can lead to questions and disagreements. Thus, my role is to attend as many



committee meetings as possible to listen and see what is going on in the church and to act as appropriate for both the staff and the congregation. Both can ask the Lay Leader for perspectives and ideas. Kevin has invited all three Lay Leaders (myself, Margo Stevenson, and Patti Whitten) to attend weekly staff meetings.

Kevin has also challenged me to grow in my relationship with God. I need to be able to walk-the-talk. It is one thing to profess my faith in God, but it is another thing to prove it. The only way I know to prove that is through what I do.

My goal is to support Oakdale's vision and mission. Kevin wants us to lead the congregation to understand that we are the body of Christ and not isolated groups. We are to work in concert and cooperation with each other.

According to the Book of Discipline, a Lay Leader is to be the primary advocate for the congregation. Thus, he/she should be a person of faith and integrity. They should trust in God and serve as a model for leadership and discipleship. We should be a mentor to others and encourage them to use their gifts.

I attend the weekly staff meetings on Tuesdays, often all morning. I am often asked for input. I also attend the Staff / Parish Relations Council, the Finance Committee, and the Church Council. My role is to be a good listener and a model for faithful discipleship. I pledge myself to be available and I am open to any questions or comments from all of you. Thank you.