

# Oakdale Emory United Methodist Men



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 8

NOVEMBER 2011

## UMM Preparing for SMGA Fundraiser Dinner

UMM prepares for the fourth annual fundraising dinner to support wounded veterans on **Veteran's Day, Friday, November 11, 2010**. Last year's fundraiser collected \$10,000 for the Support Military Golf Association (SMGA).

Six years ago, Jim Estes, the Director of Instruction for the Golf Park (across the street from OEUMC) began to see positive effects of golf for combat wounded veterans at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Tim Landres, the owner of the Park offered free balls and instruction for wounded veterans and so began the program called Salute Military Golf Association (SMGA) in 2007.

**Help for Wounded Heroes.** SMGA offers the healing power of golf to improve the quality of life for our American heroes. This is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to

**Free Country**

**Breakfast**

**Saturday,  
November 5, 2011**



providing rehabilitative golf experiences for hundreds of wounded veterans now participating across the country.

The President and Founder of SMGA, Jim Estes 46, is also a PGA Class A member. In his free golf clinic on Saturdays, he has taught the game to wounded veterans with every type of injury including single, double, and triple amputees and shrapnel injuries, spinal cord injuries, and brain injuries.



Somehow Estes finds a way to help them make contact with the golf ball often with modified equipment.

### Dinner on Nov. 11

This fundraising gala sponsored by UMM, UMW, and OEUMC will begin in Brigham Hall at 6:30 pm with hors d'oeuvres. Dinner is at 7:00 followed by a special program to salute combat wounded veterans. Several wounded veterans from

SMGA and Walter Reed Army Medical Center will join us for the evening. We are preparing a special dinner of roast beef, baked potatoes, green beans, carrots, salad, and wonderful desserts.

### Donations Welcomed

The dinner is free, however, we welcome donations of \$30 or more to support SMGA. Previous dinners have been sold out. However, your donations to support wounded veterans are more than welcomed, even if you are not able to attend the dinner.

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

**Donations are welcomed to support UMM missions.**



**Dick Stevenson - VP**  
introduced Anne Hellie as a person of poise destined for success in whatever she does



**Anne Hellie**

**OAKDALE  
EMORY  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
MEN**

### UMM Officers:

**Dick Harris - President**

**Dick Stevenson -  
Vice President**

**Ron Hoggard - Treasurer**

**Ray Johnson - Secretary and  
Newsletter Editor**

**Bob Nordstrom - Chaplain**

**Contact Editor at  
[ray@radiationcounseling.org](mailto:ray@radiationcounseling.org)**

## Faith and Technology in the Operating Room

Anne Hellie, the daughter of Ira and Lawrie Branson, was our special guest speaker on October 4, 2011. Anne is also the wife of WRC TV Sports Anchor, Dan Hellie. For the past 10 years she has been a clinical industry consultant in operating rooms dealing with physicians treating spine fractures and brain aneurysms.

Anne began by telling us how much she owed to her parents and her upbringing at Oakdale Emory. She was baptized, confirmed, and married here by Pastor David Simpson. The church gave her a gift of being thankful. Her goal is to impart the same values and gifts to her two children, Caroline 5 and Chase 4.



She sees very sick people on the operating table every day and reminds herself of her blessings. Christian faith is a constant part of her work.

She has a degree in international relations (economics, business, and political science). After college she talked with Ira to figure out a career path. Based on her interests and skills, it seemed that sales was the best direction. John Myers set up a practice interview for her. She then went to Atlanta with Lawrie, did interviews, and got a job selling advertising with the Atlanta Journal Constitution. This was a tough job for 1.5 years.

Her boyfriend at the time, Dan Hellie, got a job in Florence, South Carolina. After moving there she got a job in pharmaceutical sales. Her role was to talk with doctors about different drugs to improve market share for her

company. This was good preparation for her current job.



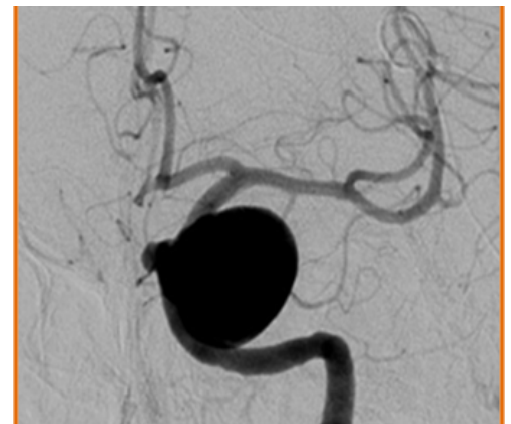
She is now a Care Coordinator in the Baltimore-Washington area for a small medical device company. She was asked to get into the practice of using medical devices, by working on cadavers, teaching doctors, and working in the OR.

Her role is to offer clinical support in hospitals and provide advanced education to doctors, RNs, and other staff. She has taken many years of training and apprenticeship to prepare for this role.

She now works with Ev3, a company selling neurovascular equipment. Her training is to know how a device will respond even before the surgeon does. Her job in the OR is to anticipate and prevent possible problems. Although she is

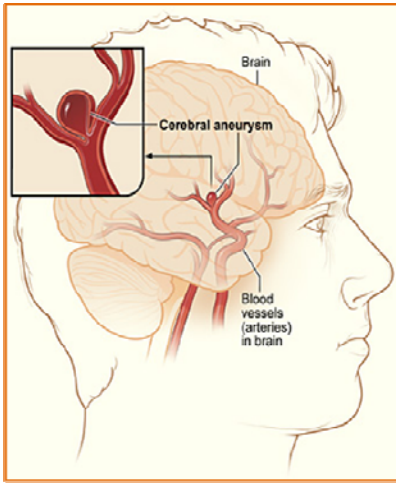
not a physician, she has become an expert on the devices and procedures used to treat brain aneurysms. Her job is to stand behind a physician and give respectful nudges as appropriate.

She wears a lead apron all day for x-ray shielding in a cardiac catheter lab while observing physicians as they thread tiny wires from the groin up through the aorta and into the brain. This procedure is continuously monitored with an x-ray image.



### Brain Aneurysm

A brain aneurysm results from a weakened area in a blood vessel in the brain. Blood rushes to that area and creates a balloon. As an aneurysm grows it can cause neurological symptoms. Untreated aneurysms can rupture resulting in a stroke, functional disability, cognitive loss, or death.



**Dan, Caroline, Anne, and Chase**

There are many types of aneurysms. The symptoms may include a terrible headache from a ruptured aneurysm. Sometimes aneurysms are only found incidentally from MRI or CT scans for investigating headaches, eye bulging, sounds in the ear, or other symptoms. A few percent of aneurysms rupture each year. Some people feel like they have a ticking time bomb in their head. Others live long and healthy lives and may never know they have an aneurysm.

Treatment may be done by inserting a very thin coil of wire into the aneurysm. This shuts off the blood supply and the results are miraculous.

**Eric Hoggard helps Anne with sound and video**



**Dan Hellie**

**Four days after coil insertion and the aneurysm is gone.**



**Lawrie Branson  
One of our kitchen angels**



**Ira Branson, past UMM president  
and always working for UMM**



**Anne thanks God for the miracles  
of modern medicine and treat-  
ments for aneurysms.**

## The Lord is Passing By

Devotional by

Bob Nordstrom, October 4, 2011

You can buy books on just about any subject these days, and places like Amazon.com are more than willing to accommodate you. I like nonfiction books that tease with their titles. You know the kind I mean... those books with titles like “Why People Believe Weird Things”, “The Lost Years of Jesus” or “Misquoting Jesus”, to name just a few of my recent acquisitions. They



have an obvious purpose to push some little known or even controversial idea into your face and wiggle it around for several hundred pages in an attempt to convince you of their point. I don't think you can publish these days with-

out being controversial. Never mind that the information might be circumstantial or even fraudulent. That seems incidental to many authors today...many, but not all. Some authors have the ability to examine controversial subjects in an unbiased and enlightening way.

Michael Shermer is one of those authors in my book. His 2003 second edition book “How We Believe” is subtitled “Science, Skepticism, and the Search for God”. With a title like that, I just had to get a copy. In the second chapter, he asks the question “Is God dead?” That question instantly teleported me mentally back to the 1960's to a time when I was completely engrossed in college and graduate studies in physics, desperately trying to understand the differences between leptons and muons, and the true meaning of wave-particle duality at the quantum level. Despite my focus on science, I knew of the religious rumblings going on at the time over the God is dead issue, and I definitely remember seeing a copy of the 1966 Time magazine with the question “Is God dead?” sprawled across its cover.

Shermer reminds us that the 1960s were the height of the cold war. Songs like “On the eve of destruction” were coming from the radio. The evening news showed Viet Nam destruction and violence in one story and war protesters on the streets of DC in the next. Conservative politicians sparred with liberals in both the House and Senate on every conceivable issue, and God Himself was on shaky ground. The cause of His rapid decline according to Shermer was secularization, science, and urbanization. Family standards established in the 1950s after World War II were being attacked on all sides, including from the youth that the family values were trying to protect. It's no wonder that many people proclaimed God's final demise.

But the story of God and His reign over us is not just a story of collective thought and action; it's not

synopsized on the television news or condensed on the cover of Time magazine. God cannot be voted dead by a majority of public opinion. He is a story of individual reflection and a stirring in each of us, quietly saying that through all the hardships and difficulties the world throws at us, there is something, or someone, who transcends all of that.

1 Kings 19: 11 – 13 reminds us of how God speaks to us. Elijah was afraid of threats on his life made by Jezebel, King Ahab's wife. The secular world was squeezing in on Elijah. He fled into the desert although God had plans for him and was working wonders through him. God saw Elijah hiding and spoke to him on the mountain.

***The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.”***

***Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.<sup>12</sup> After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.<sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”***

The Lord was not in the wind or earthquake or fire. He was not in the protests and riots of the 60s. He is not in the present-day political turmoil. He sends those things ahead of Him before He passes by. When God *does* pass by, He is heard as a gentle whisper; a still small voice.

I have heard that voice. In the midst of my studies of science back in the 60s He spoke to me. When my mind was wrestling with some very difficult concepts and mathematics, and was as far away from Him as it could be, He whispered saying, “See the wonderful things I have set before you. See how the universe is patterned and organized. That is my hand in it. I am the creator.” Today, almost fifty years later, I still hear His voice. In the remarkable complexity and incredible molecular organization that is life, God's hand is in it. Dr. Francis Collins saw the hand of God in the complexity, yet at the same time the simplicity, of the DNA molecule. For me, the vehicle of wonder was not nearly as complex as DNA. I marveled at the perfection of the physical and chemical properties of the H<sub>2</sub>O molecule; common every-day water. It still fascinates me, and I can't help hearing God's whisper when I think about it.

Is God dead? I imagine that God would answer that with the same words used by Mark Twain. He said, “Rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated.” So watch and listen, because the Lord lives, and He is passing by.

Amen