

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 6

SEPTEMBER 2011

Large Crowd Enjoys Annual Cookout in June



Chefs - Ron Hoggard and Ray Fanara



**Jim McGlaughlin
Primo Molinari
and
Craig Lopsonzski
Ira Branson
eating well**



Jeff and Mary Anne Stevenson

Guest Speakers on Tuesday, September 6, 2011

The Stevenson's will share their unique testimony of faith about destination paradise. They have been lifelong friends since kindergarten and their close relationship is steeped in faith that has seen them through cancer, exciting storms, and changing business climates. They were married in 1995 and have built a successful business together for the past 22 years. The program will include good fellowship and a delicious meal prepared by our kitchen angels at 7 pm or join us for coffee, desert, and speakers at 7:45 pm. Freewill donations go to UMM





**Dick Stevenson - VP
Introduced Dr. Causey**



Dr. Causey

**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**

Dr. C. Harry Causey - Director, National Christian Choir

Dr. Causey enthralled over 35 UMM and guests at the dinner meeting on May 3. His accounts of his walk with God left us spellbound and inspired. He told us he was born in NC. His father was President of the men's bible class in a Presbyterian church, but never talked about his faith. Harry liked singing in the Children's, Jr., and Senior High Choirs. As a youngster he began talking with the Minister about his sermons and began to love Jesus. At an early age he wanted to be a minister, but was told he could not make a living.

He played piano by ear and amazed his parents by practicing in church before the service. His Aunt played hymns and he watched her fingers. He begged for lessons, but was denied by his father.

Harry's Dad "Clyde Sr." was a hunter and sportsman. He carried a gun, used bad language, and said he hated niggers. Harry never liked that and he did not like his Father or his values. His Father never showed any expressions of love and worked himself to death. He worked late, ate late, and was drunk most nights.

Harry's Mother would scold "Clyde Sr." in a soprano voice, which distressed his musical ears. Harry did not like his father's name and decided to change his own name to Harry.

Harry eventually got piano and organ lesions. In the 9th grade he became assistant organist and assistant director of the choir at the Presbyterian Church in Rockingham, NC. He had to overcome prejudice of older members. In High School his favorite class was choir. In the 10th grade he became assistant director of the school choir.

After high school he had to decide to become a minister or a musician? He went to Davidson

College in NC and then went to the College of Music at the Florida State University where he got a master's degree in music composition. He met his wife of 45 years there in 1965. He went on to study choral directing at the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music and obtained a doctoral degree.

While working on his doctorate he was offered a job as music director for the College Hill Presbyterian Church, OH. At the time he could not stand church and its hypocrites. However, he joined the staff part time and at a staff retreat he recommitted to Christ.

The church also started a healing ministry which changed his life. His wife Elizabeth desperately want a child, but could not conceive. They both attended a healing service and sat in the back row as unbelievers. They went forward reluctantly and were anointed with oil. Two weeks later Elizabeth was pregnant. Harry decided that if God could create a miracle like this, he would dedicate his life to God as a minister of music.

The church also asked him to lead a youth guitar group, which he did not want to do because he did not know about guitars or their kind of music. However, they pleaded and prayed for him. He was touched by their faith and accepted the position. This led to another life-changing experience.

While on an annual youth group tour, his kids took part in a healing service. All 50 came forward and had amazing healings. When they returned home and witnessed of their experience, the church invited the same minister to

lead a healing service. 600 attended with astounding miracles which changed the church forever.

In 1980 he was ordained as a Doctor of Divinity from the Antietam Bible College. In 1983 he got an invitation from Dick Halverson to set up a ministry in DC to rival that of the Crystal Cathedral. He visited DC and hated it, so he declined the offer. After repeated calls he moved to DC and started a choir with 45 voices which became 110 in two months. Unfortunately, six months later, Halverson became Chaplain for the US Senate and the church decided not to fund the music program.

Elizabeth asked him why he did not go free-lance and write music and books to help others with music ministry. However, he owed a \$41,000 loan from the church, could not sell his house in OH, his Mother died, his wife's father died, and they lost their 3rd child. He found himself unemployed, hopelessly in debt, feeling low, and sorry for himself.

At this time he and Elizabeth attended an annual music ministry conference in CO. 2,600 people joined in singing and worship broke out. They were both healed of the emotions that were paralyzing them.

In 1983 he started his own music ministry in DC. He got a call from a business man who said he wanted to create a choir of 250 voices to honor God. Harry told him of his dream for a National Christian Choir. 3,300 people showed up for the first concert and continuing success ever since.

He told us that God comes when we feel hopeless and helpless. He prayed for us to hear God's voice and to follow and glorify Him.



Traditional UMM Prayer Circle for Blessing the Dinner



James Harris



Digging In



Kim McGlaughlin and Dick Harris



Mel Sessa took these photos



Primo Molinari and Joe Hoover - Someone has to do the dishes



Surviving a Power Failure

Devotional by
Bob Nordstrom May 3, 2011

Devastating storms swept across the country in April, leaving destruction and death in their wakes. Families are still recovering from the disruption of their daily lives and the loss of property created by dozens of tornadoes. There must be a feeling of complete abandonment by God in the hearts of those who were hit by the destruction.



Here, in the Olney area, we were spared the horrific losses that others experienced. We may have had some homes without power, or there may have been a few trees blown over, but nothing on the scale of what happened in Arkansas, Alabama, or other places. We were lucky. But at our house, we did lose power on one occasion for several hours. The experience made me think.

As often as I have been through power failures, my first reaction is always "What happened?" Of course that only lasts an instant; then the next emotion sweeps through me. "Oh no, why me, why now?" At the start of a power failure, you never know exactly how long it will last, so you start to hope that it will only last a minute or two. I usually just sit quietly where I was when the lights went out, thinking that I won't need to get up to find a working flashlight. Everything will be fine, if I just don't move.

When that doesn't work, I know it's time to find a flashlight and begin the process of finding a remedy to the problem. My wife is usually encouraging me to do the same by that time.

By remedy, I mean starting the generator. We have an old 5 kW generator that came with the house when we bought it eight years ago. It was on its last legs then, and has been limping through one power failure after another from that time to now. At least it has when I have been home to start it. My wife cannot start the rusty old thing. So if I am gone, she remains in the dark. It's not her fault. She is actually very handy and clever with many things, but with the generator it's different. The pull starter long ago broke, and I have to wrap a rope around the axle of the engine and give it a pull (actually, many pulls) before it will turn over. And that's after turning on the gas valve, setting the throttle, and remembering to flip the off switch to the "on" position. Once it turns over, I go to the electrical closet in the basement and flip the switches for generator power. A few lights in the house go on, the refrigerator again hums quietly, the water pump is on, and we have some heat from the upstairs furnace if we need it.

But like I said, the last power failure made me think. We often experience our own personal power failures; not the electrical kind, but the emotional kind. The kind of power failure where we just want to give up and sit in the dark; the kind where we feel lost or abandoned by God. There are many reasons for these power failures. It may come from an unkind word said in anger; it may be the weight of responsibilities that are too heavy to bear; or it may be the loss of a loved one.

The reasons are many and once in the throes of the power failure, the actual reasons don't seem to matter. Nothing does.

This is where someone needs to step in and start the generator. It may be old and rusty, but it needs to be started. I think we all know who that someone is. It's Jesus himself. He knows how to pull the rope and set the switches. We just have to reach for Him in prayer and scripture. Jesus said, "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life.*" John 8:12. Jesus can indeed bring light to those sitting in darkness, but He will not bring it unless you ask. Remember Jesus also said, "*Ask and it will be given; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.*" Matthew 7: 6 – 8.

So when you feel the lights starting to dim and the power starting to fade in your life, call on the power of Jesus and he will restore you. His power never fails. Amen



**Mart English and Beth Hitchcock
Prepare May 3 Dinner**



**Gloria Williams, Marti English,
Karen Nordstrom Preparing Dinner**



**Some of Our Kitchen Angels Also Enjoyed the Cookout
Beth Hitchcock, Karen Nordstrom, Lawrie Branson**