



Oakville Presbyterian Church
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The Oakville News



Fall 2015

John's Jots

Have you ever felt your life is just happening to you rather than you determining your life? Sometimes you may feel that you are just going through the motions each day. Your life may have neither extreme negative drama nor much positive drama. Sometimes you may feel as though you are spinning your wheels, just living life on the surface. You hear motivational speakers and even popular preachers talking about living life to the fullest, saying, "Be all that you can be." My own Facebook page is flooded with inspirational quotes. Here are a few:

"It is never too late to be what you might have been."

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them"

"Life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it"

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."

Such quotes can be inspiring and encouraging for a moment, but then, your "inner strength" and focus on yourself doesn't always take you very far. Though you may be surrounded by others you may feel very lonely; you question your relationships. You may wish you had a friend who you could not only have fun with but speak with on a deep level - someone who truly listens, understands and also gives wise counsel.

Wouldn't it be great if you had someone who could help you not only figure out what your potential is, but also how to achieve it, even someone who would come along side you to coach you, encourage you and be a companion along the way to a deeper, abundant life? Such feelings are a natural part of what it means to be a human being. God created us in his own image to be in relationship with others, and especially with Him. As St. Augustine wrote in *Confessions*,

"Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee."

We become all we were made to be when we grow deeper in our relationship with the One who made us. We also have "companions along the way" who encourage, befriend, and coach us. This is what we call the church. Apart from our relationship with God and others we are less than ourselves.

This type of community is not just focused on ourselves and "being fed" but also in serving and giving of ourselves to others. I invite you to connect more deeply with God and others by getting involved with this community of faith called the Oakville Family. Plug into a small group where you can find companionship and "coaching". Join us in worship on Sunday mornings. Participate in ministries that help others and use the gifts God has given us. Together we become all we were created to be and change the world around us.

**Please let us know if you would like to be added or removed from this mailing.*

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MEETING

DATE AND TIME IN OCTOBER - TO BE ANNOUNCED

Oakville Church will be hosting its second meeting on emergency preparedness. Local officials tell us that those of us living outside of the city can expect to be without power and perhaps any aid for about 2 weeks if there is any significant disaster. As a community we can work together to be as prepared as possible should a disaster strike. We are planning to have an informational and strategizing meeting (the second of several) on an evening to be schedule in October. We will have Vickie Myers, Program Coordinator, Linn County **Community Emergency Response Team** (CERT) speak with us about the program and how we can work together to respond to a disaster in our area.

Keep checking the church website to find out when the meeting will be scheduled. You can also contact the church and give us your contact information and we will contact you when the meeting is scheduled (as well as inform you of plans in the event of a disaster in our area.)

Oakville Presbyterian Church

Founded in 1850
 29970 Church Drive, Shedd, Oregon 97377
(541) 758-0647
 www.oakvillechurch.org
 email@oakvillechurch.org

Pastor: John S. Carpenter

Worship Times Sept - May 11:00 a.m.

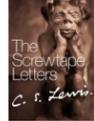
(June - Aug - 10:00 a.m.)

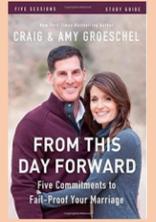
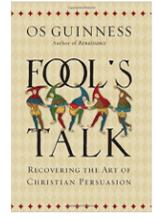
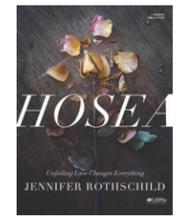
Sunday School for all ages Sept - May 9:45 a.m.

Church secretary: Samantha Gobba

DON'T MISS:

Upcoming Events	
Sept. 27	Cider Pressing and Harvest Party 5 p.m. - 7 pm at the Coon Family's Oak Park Farms, 31308 Peoria Rd. Shedd, OR 97377. Come for a finger food potluck and games for all ages! 
Oct. 24	Movie Night 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, potluck dinner 6:15 p.m. We will be watching the Disney/Pixar movie "Up." 
Nov. 13-15	Ladies' Getaway: Come relax and enjoy some girl time at Oregon's beautiful Neskowin Beach! To reserve a spot, email Shawn Wells at artist1955@centurylink.net or call the church at 541-758-0647. 
Nov. 29	Christmas Craft Night 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; bring a potluck finger food item to share! 

Sunday School	
Adult Sunday School	 September 13-November 29 "Being the Body of Christ" Follow Leith Anderson's book, "Volunteering: A Guide to Serving in the Body of Christ." Taught by Paul Harmon
	 December 6-27 "Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas" Explore the powerful stories behind some of best-loved Christmas music over the Sundays of Advent. Taught by Grant Thompson & Martha Kennedy
HS/Jr.H Sunday School	 September-May "The Screwtape Letters" Delve into C.S. Lewis' Christian classic, an unusual study of how to recognize and overcome demonic temptation. Taught by Samantha Gobba
Classes meet at 9:45 a.m. and begin with a 9 a.m. kickoff breakfast Sept. 13.	

Small Groups			
"From This Day Forward" Marriage Seminar  Mon. evenings at the Hewitt's, Wed. evenings at the Carpenter's beginning Sept. 21.	"Fools' Talk: The Art of Christian Persuasion"  6 p.m. every other Sunday at the Carpenter's beginning Oct. 4 (See online Calendar.)	Alpha Group  11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Wednesdays beginning Sept. 16. Hosted by George and Marian Divine	HOSEA: Women's Community Bible Study  7:00-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Oakville Church beginning Sept. 15. Led by Tami Coon
For more information on small groups, please see the church website, www.oakvillchurch.org .			

IN OTHER NEWS:

VBS Director's Note

VBS 2015 was a smashing success!

Kids and adults alike had a great time worshiping, crafting and learning how to make Jesus central to our lives. Each day brought a skit about the "true nature" God wants us to model in our lives.

Our mission this year was to support local food banks, and we collected a tent full of food and household items which were donated at the end of the week.

Next year is the theme, "The Miracles of Jesus". If you would like to be involved in the VBS 2016, we welcome your input! ~ Jane Gilman



Welcome !



We welcome Samantha (Gilman) Gobba as our new Secretary. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in English from Hillsdale College in Michigan, and has a background in teaching and working as a journalist.

She and her husband Marshall welcomed their first child, Matthew, in August, and the part time position is ideal for them.

Samantha has been part of the Oakville family for several years and is delighted to be able to serve the church family with the experience, and skills that God has given her.

Operation Christmas Child

It's not too early to start collecting items for your shoe boxes. School supplies are on sale now, so stock up!

National Collection Week: Nov 16-23.

Shoe boxes and labels will be available soon.

Questions can be directed to Mary Carpenter. Let's make this the best collection yet!



FAST FACTS

- ◆ Samaritan's Purse has delivered over 113 million shoeboxes to children in 150 countries, including the United States, Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.
- ◆ Over 500,000 volunteers—more than 100,000 in the United States alone—collect, ship and distribute the gift-filled shoeboxes.
- ◆ During National Collection Week, Samaritan's Purse will collect boxes at over 4,000 sites in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Coming soon:

To avoid ruts in muddy weather, a new concrete pad about 8 feet wide is coming in September or November to the west side of the building. It will be big enough for the Coon's lift, used to clean out gutters and upper parts of the church. Exact dates TBD.

Some time in November, a crew will be moving pews out of the sanctuary to paint the whole upstairs and fix the ceiling cracks. The crew will also give the Fellowship Hall and both stairways a fresh coat of paint.



Stay tuned for **FALL CLEANUP DAY** some time this October or November. Date depends on weather.

