

Office: 301-249-2230  
Web Site: [www.mtoak.org](http://www.mtoak.org)  
Email: [MO@mtoak.org](mailto:MO@mtoak.org)

Mount Oak Fellowship  
14110 Mount Oak Rd  
Mitchellville, MD 20721-1208



**MOUNT OAK**  
fellowship  
*The family church...*

**The Problem:** *Families are under attack.*  
**The Solution:** *Reaching the whole family for Christ*  
**The Process:** *Bring in, Build up, Send out*  
**The Win:** *A changed life or family for Christ*

# Thank You for worshipping with us

## Sunday, December 4, 2011

**The Mt Oak Email Prayer Chain** is available for all prayer requests and praise reports. Send requests directly to [MO@mtoak.org](mailto:MO@mtoak.org) and mark them **Prayer Request/Praise Report**. **Please print your name and contact information on each card you submit.**

Remember when you turn in a Prayer Card at Church to write **Public** (for distribution) or **Private** (for the pastors). We cannot broadcast prayer concerns without permission.

**Please have all entries for the bulletin** into the Church Office by *Monday the week of the publication*. Thank you.

### **Church Budget**

Weekly budget	\$13,474	Budget need to date	\$646,752
Last week's giving	\$12,368	Current giving to date	\$597,977

**Please Register Your Attendance!** We are using the black binders to collect attendance information. *Please print.*

Use the **LEFT HAND COLUMN** if you are a member or regular 'attende'e' and we have your current contact information.

Use the **RIGHT HAND COLUMN** if you are a visitor or wish to change your contact information please completely fill in one of the four line blocks.

## **MOUNT OAK FELLOWSHIP**

*of the United Methodist Church*

*14110 Mount Oak Road, Mitchellville, MD 20721*

*(301) 249-2230 - [www.mtoak.org](http://www.mtoak.org)*

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Ramon E. McDonald II, [ray@mtoak.org](mailto:ray@mtoak.org)

**Youth Pastor:** Pastor Jonathan Brooker, [jonathan@mtoak.org](mailto:jonathan@mtoak.org)

**Children's Director:** Babette Phillips, [babette@mtoak.org](mailto:babette@mtoak.org)

**Administrative Assistant:** Diane Balsley, [diane@mtoak.org](mailto:diane@mtoak.org)

**Worship Ministry Teams:** Erma Collins & Mary Jane Stauffer (8:45)  
Jamie King, Sam Bolin (10:30)

**Women's Ministry Dinner**  
**Monday, December 5, 2011,**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker: Marilyn Anderes**  
***"Because He has Come!"***

**Confirm your reservation by**  
**November 30, 2011,**  
**as this will be a catered dinner!**

**The cost is \$15.00.**

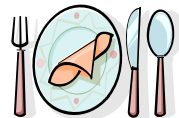
For more information, contact :

Amy Neuenschwander at

[sewlomio@comcast.net](mailto:sewlomio@comcast.net) or

Sharon Branham at 410-798-8119

**Wednesday Night**  
**Dinners**



5:45 pm \$6 per person /  
\$20 per family

**Menus for the next two weeks**

Dec 7—Beef, Rice, Veg

Dec 14—Chicken Pot Pie, Warm Rolls, Vegetable



### Just Say No to Negative Talk

**Ephesians 4:31**—*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.*

Several times on this blog I have mentioned how destructive the tongue can be in relationships. Gossip, slander, evil talk and speaking ill of others is destructive and can do NO good. In the workplace it can take the focus off of the purpose of the firm – and place it on backbiting and trying to one-up someone else. It can kill productivity as people try to stay up with the latest gossip about a co-worker.

Today's passage says: *get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.* That is such sound advice. It would help all our relationships if we only spoke well of each other. What is that old saying: *if you can't say something good about someone – don't say anything at all.*

As Christians – we should be especially aware of what we say to and about others. Paul was writing to the Christians in Ephesus when he wrote: **Ephesians 4:29-32** – **29** *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.* **30** *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* **31** *Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.* **32** *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*



The next time someone comes into your office – greets you at the water cooler – or meets you in the parking lot – and they begin with gossip and negative talk about a co-worker or someone else – tell them you aren't going to listen and walk away (or ask them to leave your office). Saying nothing – and listening – gives those who speak ill of others a platform. When we remain silent – they will take that as approval and keep at it.

And if you are the one with the negative talk – ask yourself – *what would Jesus do?* I cannot imagine Jesus tearing someone down with words – speaking ill of someone – can you?

**Children's Director - Babette Phillips**

### **Kingdom Kids**



This month we will be exploring "Generosity" Making someone's day by giving something away.

What a great month to teach our children to give is better than to receive. With the holiday season around us we have so many opportunities to show "Generosity" to those around us. Right here at Mt. Oak we are having a "Winter Clothing Drive" This Saturday between 9 am and 11 am your family can bring items from your closet to help those that have no coats, sweaters or blankets. Or maybe going through your pantry and finding those extra can goods you bought while the store was having a great sale and bring them to church or the local food pantry. Maybe take sometime to have a family bake day and enjoy dropping by neighbors and give them a homemade treat. You can even give of yourself by joining us December 11th to make the residents at the nursing homes day by stopping in and singing a few Christmas melodies with them. More ideas or something you have already done, send your ideas or adventures of "Generosity" to me to share this month in the E-news. We can all use fresh ideas!

In Kingdom Kids this week we will learn that *"People are always more important than stuff."* as we teach on the parable of the Rich Man in Luke 12:13-21. This time of year is great for teaching "generosity" since everyone around you is gearing up to give.

### **AWANA's**

December 14th will be a wonderful night for our AWANA Clubbers, they will be making gifts for their parents, siblings and friends. We are looking for craft helpers to man the tables and help the little ones complete the task. The time is from 6:45 PM to 8 PM. Please call 301-249-2230 or email me [babette@mtoak.org](mailto:babette@mtoak.org) if you would like help.

### **Family Event!!**

December 11<sup>th</sup> we will be heading to the Woodward Nursing Home in Bowie to sing Christmas Carols. Be sure and mark your calendar for this great family time of sharing with others in our community. We are in the processes of confirming a time, it will be after lunch around 2:00.

### **Lango**

Winter Camp between Christmas and New Year see [www.langokids.com](http://www.langokids.com) or contact Joanne Wallington 301-379-9411



### **Words of Wisdom – Proverbs 15:9**

*“The LORD detests the way of the wicked but he loves those who pursue righteousness.”*

All throughout the book of Proverbs the author will use these comparison statements. Often they are either like this one where “the Lord hates this but loves that,” or the other most used comparison is between “the wise man does...while the fool does...” In these structures, while there may seem to be some repetition within the sentence, we actually get two sides of a coin: what pleases God and what displeases God. In that way, it’s pretty clear what we should go for and what we should avoid.

In this verse we see a rather simple and straightforward statement: God can’t stand the actions of those who are living outside of His will, but He loves those who consistently do what they can to be more Christ-like. With a statement so straightforward and clear there tends to be a rather necessary reaction: stop and think where you are in this. Personally I want to be found on the side of God’s love, the side that has me actively pursuing righteousness. So that’s where I’d like to focus.

It seems like the first group is acting more out of a natural instinct whereas the second group is intentionally doing something: pursuing. People pursue all kinds of things in life – money, a good job, a spouse, a family, a vacation, and so on and so on. While it’s good for us to pursue some of these things they should always be secondary pursuits. Our primary chasing should be after God and godliness. To say it another way, our primary purpose in life should be to know God and to have our lives be changed by that knowledge. And so we pursue righteousness through discovering it in the Bible, discerning it through the leading of the Holy Spirit and through discussing it with godly people in our lives who can hold us accountable.

When our lives gravitate around ourselves we become the wicked that God detests because we’ve placed ourselves as the one who should be most happy and pleased. Whether we realize it or not, that’s idolatry. But if we wish to be loved by God then all we must do is simply go after Him. When we pursue Him and His righteousness all the rest will be added in its due time anyway.



Thanks to all who participated in the survey.  
We have settled on the following services:

### **Christmas Eve**

6:00 pm – Contemporary in Worship Center

8:30 pm – Traditional Candlelight

Communion service in Sanctuary



### **Christmas Day**

9:30 am – Sanctuary

# Missions: Bring, Build & Send

## Mission News

If you are interested in a one day mission trip to Mechanicsburg, PA to volunteer at Mission Central on Tuesday, December 21st, please call or email Laurell Leith by Tuesday, December 6th. I need to let the volunteer coordinator know how many people will be coming. Phone: 410 991 2171 (after 3 PM) Email: lleith@aacsonline.org

Please keep praying about adopting a missionary family and or sending cards of encouragement: E-cards or snail-mail. Kevin & Margoth Saldāna cards need to be in Spanish and mailed in care of the Clark's address. Please check with the post office for Peru postage, it has been 98 cents.

Hats-r-Us needs **100% cotton hats**: toddler to youth sizes for young cancer patients. This project is for **Children's Medical Ministry / Cops Fighting Cancer** project to be mailed out the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December. They can be made on the loom, knitted or crochet. One hat can make a difference! Stop by the mission room (204) for supplies and information. Please bring your finished items to church on Sunday Dec 4 or the Women's Christmas dinner on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mission chairperson: Harriette Thompson, [heartstrings101@verizon.net](mailto:heartstrings101@verizon.net)

## Missionaries Addresses, Christmas 2011

Ted & Elise Adomanis  
Grace Brethren Canada  
PO Box 836 Charlotte Hall, MD 20622  
[elise@gbcanda.ca](mailto:elise@gbcanda.ca)  
[www.gbcanda.ca](http://www.gbcanda.ca)

Paul & Marty Clark  
Scripture Union  
Los Cedros 470, Chaclacayo,  
Lima 08, Peru  
[pmclark@terra.com.pe](mailto:pmclark@terra.com.pe)

Kevin & Margoth Saldāna  
In care of Clarks  
Scripture Union/ School Ministry  
[www.su-international.org](http://www.su-international.org)  
[www.unionbiblicalperu.org](http://www.unionbiblicalperu.org)

Fred & Jacquie Heyn  
International Foundation  
National Prayer Breakfast  
2206 24<sup>th</sup> Street N, Arlington, VA 22207  
[fnjheyn@verizon.net](mailto:fnjheyn@verizon.net)

Bill & Erma Collins  
Children's Medical Ministries  
PO Box 3382 Crofton, MD 21114  
[childmed@olg.com](mailto:childmed@olg.com)  
[www.childmed.org](http://www.childmed.org)

Richard & Cheryl Jensen  
Midwest Indian Mission  
401 North Summit Drive,  
Crandon, WI 54520  
[rcjensen2@hotmail.com](mailto:rcjensen2@hotmail.com)

Nick & Amy Repak  
Grad Services  
5501 Independence Pkwy #100,  
Plano TX 75023  
[www.gradresources.org](http://www.gradresources.org)

Chris & Brenda Walker  
Mission to Panama  
9962 Brook Road #648,  
Glen Allen, VA 23059  
[Pastor\\_chris@evangelismcoach.org](mailto:Pastor_chris@evangelismcoach.org)  
[www.missiontopanama.org](http://www.missiontopanama.org)

## ATTENTION SANDWICH MAKERS

We will be taking sandwiches to Martha's Table on the *third* Sunday of December (the 18<sup>th</sup>) instead of the fourth since the fourth Sunday is Christmas Day.

Remember to use sandwich bags that seal and clearly mark your package for Martha's Table or the homeless.

The number of sandwiches that we have delivered to Martha's Table has dwindled over the past several months, but their need is just as great.



**CHRISTMAS Tree Sale**

IF you're LOOKING For a Great CHRISTMAS Tree

LOOK NO FURTHER THAN Mt. OAK FELLOWSHIP

OUR Men'S MINISTRY IS SELLING CHRISTMAS trees

### Christmas Tree Sale

We have Fraser Fir and Canaan Fir

Size: 4 ft. to 9 ft.

Price: \$45 - \$75

Time of Sales:

Mon- Fri 4 pm – 8pm

Saturday 10 am – 8 pm

Sunday 12 pm – 6 pm

Contact Gary Ward or the church office for more information, or if you are able to assist with selling the Christmas Trees.

# Best Years December Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 11:00 a.m.

## *Christmas Carol's with Ms. Ellie*

*This year at Christmas time lets each donate a new first grade reading book to be collected and given to Babette Phillips our Children's Director.*

**Questions? Call Edna 301-464-4620**

### **Sermon Notes:**

#### Forgiveness of Sins

December 4, 2011

*Psalm 130:3-4*

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Mark 11:17** *“My house shall be called a House of Prayer for all nations”*

**Healing:** Desmond Walker, Caroline Hinkley, Wade Jernigan, Allison Balsley, Mason Ditch, Valerie Archer, Mary Jane Stauffer, Paul Balsley, Aaron Washburn, Gary Ward, Janelle Rigler.

**Family/Friends:** Joan Stauffer, Bruce Cosentino, Pearl Cosentino, Bobby Snow, Jim Widmayer, Avon Floyd (D.Balsley), Jean & Nate Isenhour, George & Marti, Pat C, Laura M, Mary Jo Robert.

**Pregnancy:** Chelsea Minton, Julie Turpin (Anyone else—please let us know in the office)

**Death:** Wade Jernigan at the death of his mother, Caryl Jernigan, Hannah Washburn at the death of her sister.

**Finances/Employment:** Will Angolia, Brianne Leith, Sherry Ekelof, Stephen Imai, Margaret Passalacqua

**Military/School/Away from Home:** All who are in harm's way, Austin & Nick Reese, Joe Mihoces, Sean Jones, Brian Patterson, Drew Painter, Michelle Isenhour, Christopher White, James Jernigan, Michael Bragg, Patrick Brennan, Nate & Jean Isenhour, Phil Bogan, Michelle Ward, Adam Bergstrom, Tyler Daley, Stephen Daley, Peter Santini, James Lockwood, Steve & David Hammond, Catherine Patterson.

**Missionaries:** Bill and Erma Collins, Fred & Jacquie Heyn, Chris & Brenda Walker, Nick & Amy Repak, Kevin Saldaña, Ted & Elise Adomanis, Richard & Cheryl Jensen, and Paul & Marty Clark.

Prayer Concerns are for the church to pray for and expect to see God move in the situation. We can only see that through your eyes. If you list someone on the Prayer Concerns, then please follow up with the person and determine whether the situation has been resolved or not. If the situation is not resolved, please speak to one of the pastors.

We are urged to pray in all situations and in one accord with the Holy Spirit. Please share your praise and prayer concerns with us. In order to make this more useful, we will leave the person's name up for *only two weeks* and then take it down. If the situation has not been resolved, then, please consider talking with one of the pastors about the next step to take.

# CALENDAR-AT-A-GLANCE

## For the Dates of December 2 - December 10

### Friday

- 6:30 pm Couples w/young children - Upper Room
- 6:30 pm Young Adult Praise Team Practice
- 7:00 pm (EOW) Bible Study - Judges - Holloway's home

### Saturday

- 7:30 am Chair Setup
- 9:30 am Dorcas Ministry, room 206
- 9:30 am Decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas

### Sunday

- 8:45 am 1<sup>st</sup> Worship Service – Sanctuary
- 10:00 am Adult Sunday School Class - Clouds Room
- 10:30 am 2<sup>nd</sup> Worship Service – Worship Center
- 11:00 am Children's Church - Kingdom Kid's Room
- 6:30 pm AMPED—Doors Open
- 6:30 pm Evening Worship—Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm AMPED—Service Starts

### Monday

- 7:30 pm Men's Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Women's Ministry Dinner

### Tuesday

- 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting

### Wednesday

- 5:45 pm Fellowship Dinner
- 6:30 pm AWANA
- 6:45 pm Youth Small Groups
- 7:00 pm Adult Discipleship Classes
- 8:30 pm Men's Basketball—Invite your Friends

### Thursday

- 7:00 pm Young Adults - Albert's home
- 7:00 pm Adult Praise Team Practice

### Friday

- 6:30 pm Couples w/young children - Upper Room
- 6:30 pm Young Adult Praise Team Practice
- 7:00 pm (EOW) Bible Study - Judges - Holloway's home

### Saturday

- 7:30 am Chair Setup