



MOUNT OAK
fellowship

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Mount Oak
Messenger Staff

- Coordinator**
Paula Young
- Copy Editors**
Tikki Jefferson
Erik Sellin
Mary Ferraro Smith
Warren K. Smalley
- Layout and Design**
John Mortenson,
- Reproduction**
Milford Craig
- Distribution**
Cindy Tallon
- Features Reporter**
Laurie Mortenson

Mount Oak Messenger

Mount Oak Fellowship | A United Methodist Congregation

Volume 15, Issue 2

February 2005

New Year, New Challenges, New Opportunities

January 1st is the time when people make resolutions for the New Year. Often these have something to do with improving oneself, like controlling our eating or exercising more. Many of us have probably made such New Year resolutions and broken them by now. I would like to suggest that we each make another type of resolution, one that is a true commitment that is guaranteed to bear fruit.

Mount Oak Fellowship is a family, a large family. And as with every family, there

are needs that need to be met so the family can operate. What do you think would happen if each of us made a commitment to do just one

“What do you think would happen if each of us made a commitment to do one new thing at Mount Oak?”

new thing at Mount Oak? I believe it would make a difference. It can be as big or small as you wish, but it

needs to be something new for you.

Here is a list of current and upcoming needs for you to consider. Some involve a lot of time and others an hour a month. A number of these needs have gone unmet since 2004. The New Year is a great time to start new things to step out and get involved. Look over the list below. Is there a task

there you can do? Call the contact person. Or if you need more time, on Sunday, March 13, we will be having a MINISTRIES FAIR where you

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Is There Interest in a Church-Wide Retreat?

The MOUNT OAK WOMEN'S MINISTRY retreats have been very successful over the years, and this year the MEN'S MINISTRY is planning a retreat. Several people have suggested that Mount Oak should schedule a church-wide retreat this summer so whole families can be together.

The dates of Friday-Sunday, June 10-12, 2005, have been tentatively reserved on the church calendar for this event. One suggestion was to hold the retreat at a place like Rocky Gap State Park (if available), which features hotel accommodations, cabins, and campsites all in the same place. If enough interest is expressed, including a volunteer to do the organizational work, we can proceed with planning.

The Clarks and the Snows have agreed to coordinate this event. To continue putting

time and effort into this, they need to know if you are interested in this.

For planning purposes (non-binding), if the retreat sounds like something you might like to do, and especially if you would like to work on an organizing committee, please contact **Suzy Clark** at 301.809.1898 or **Elaine Snow** at 301.262.0228. If you are interested in attending, they will need to know your name, the number of people, and whether you would prefer hotel, cabin or campsite accommodations.



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will be able to sign up and get involved in supporting the family work.

Mentors for Children

One individual (male or female) interested in mentoring a small group (6-10 children) of kindergarten and 1st grade-age children one Sunday a month during the second part of the 10:30 service. The curriculum is provided. Contact **Sandee Cogan** if interested.

One to three individuals (male or female) interested in mentoring a small group of 3rd graders one to three Sundays a month during the 2nd part of the 10:30 service. Contact **Sandee Cogan** if interested.

People interested in spending time with 1 and 2-year-olds one Sunday a month. Must be skilled in giving hugs, interpreting toddler talk and giving snack. Contact **Sandee Cogan** if interested.

Sunshine Ministry Coordinator

...to oversee a wonderful caring ministry that prays for and sends cards to those who are sick in our congregation. The job of the coordinator is to pick up the prayer requests from the office that are submitted at the services and select those that are appropriate for cards. The coordinator, with help from some team members, then calls the person who submitted the prayer request to get more details. Finally, the coordinator writes a newsletter and sends it by e-mail to the team of about 15 members, who send out cards. This letter is written approximately every week or two, as needed, taking 1-2 hours for calls and writing the letter. Training is available for this important and very rewarding ministry

position. A compassionate and willing heart is all that is needed. Contact **Cindy Tallon** at 301.464.4795 if interested.

Food Chain Coordinator

...to oversee a caring ministry that provides meals to individuals and families in time of need. The job of coordinator is to identify those not being served or ministered to by their small group or those not in a small group. Then the coordinator will contact the person/family in need and work out details with them. Finally the coordinator calls the people on the willing to make meals list. The meals are delivered by the preparer. Mount Oak has a lengthy list of people willing to prepare meals so the coordinator needs only to coordinate. Contact **Cindy Tallon** at 301.464.4795 if interested.

Organist for the 8:30 am worship team.

If you can play the organ and are looking for a short term commitment, this is for you. The 8:30 worship team needs a replacement organist for approximately three months. If interested contact **Susie Richardson** at 1.866.366.4708.

These are immediate needs and opportunities. Please don't wait. If you can volunteer for one of these, do so now. Don't put it off.

If you don't see anything here that you can do, remember that on Sunday, March 13, 2005, you will have more opportunities to get involved. For information on volunteering opportunities, contact **Colleen Bell**, the volunteer coordinator, at 410.451.2391.

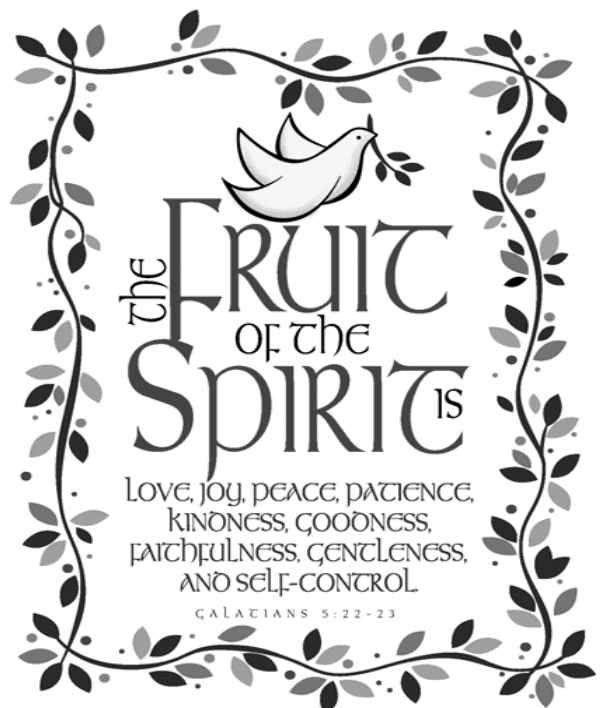
Mothers of Preschoolers Continue to Study the Fruit of the Spirit

MOPS (MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS) of Mount Oak will be holding two meetings in the month of February. On Friday, February 11, the speaker's topic will be "LOVE & KINDNESS: A GIVING HEART". On Friday, February 25 the speaker's topic will be "MONEY MATTERS: RAISING MONEY-WISE CHILDREN."

The **MOPS** meeting begins at 9:30 AM with a light brunch followed by a presentation and discussion from a guest speaker. The meeting concludes at noon after crafts and/or small group discussions.

Every mother of a preschooler is urged to attend. Childcare is provided. Please join us as we continue to study the fruit of the Spirit in our series, "FRESH FRUIT: GROWING A LIFE THAT MATTERS."

For more information, contact **Kristin Mrotek** at kmrotek@comcast.net.



Men's Ministry News

Mark your calendars!

Valentine's Day Couples Dinner/Dance

Saturday, February 12, 2005 from 7 PM-11 PM

Mount Oak Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$60.00 per couple

Enjoy a catered buffet dinner and live music. Entertainment provided by the "New Legacy" a 10-piece jazz ensemble.

Dinner will be served from 7 PM- 8 PM followed by music and dancing. Childcare will be available.

Tickets will be on sale after church services. Invite other couples to attend with you.



Upcoming Events:

Monthly Monday Night

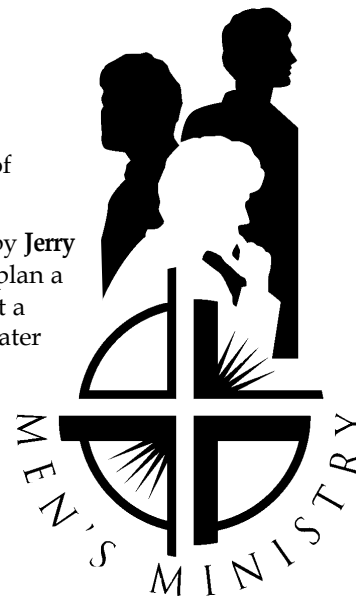
Men's Dinner

March 21

Auto show





In May, in the parking lot of Mount Oak Church.

A committee, chaired by **Jerry Kemp**, has been formed to plan a **MEN'S RETREAT** to be held at a remote location sometime later this year. Details to be announced.



Upcoming Summer Events Request Your Prayers

The **WOW (WOMEN OF THE WORD) 2005 PLANNING TEAM** is requesting your prayers as they begin meeting and preparing for this summer's get-togethers with the Lord. Whenever WOW comes to mind, please lift them up to the Lord in prayer. If you would like to pray more specifically, they would like prayer for the following:

-  That key facilitators will answer God's call
-  That all those involved will seek the desires of His heart for this summer's program
-  That He will call those whom He seeks to attend
-  That He will come and meet us in July.

Thank you. Love & Blessing,
the **WOW 2005 PLANNING TEAM**.

For more information, contact **Canice Galey** at 301.262.9597 or cgaley@bayard.org.

SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMP (SAC) preparation began in November. The **PLANNING TEAM** is now requesting your prayers as they finalize the curriculum and begin to fill positions. SAC will be held the week of July 11-15 from 9 AM to Noon for children ages 5-11. The theme this year is **The Bible – The Word of God**. Please pray

that God will prepare the hearts of those He has called to serve and to participate in SAC this year. The purpose of SAC is to bring children and families to a closer relationship with Christ. Pray that with God's blessing we will do this. For more information, contact **Paula Young** 301.261.4561 or **Molly Bragg** 301.390.0639.



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

Community Concerns Expands Program to Include Furniture and Appliance Donations

The COMMUNITY CONCERNS MINISTRY launched the MOUNT OAK URBAN SUBURBAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM (MO-USCO) last year for the purpose of reaching out to our inner city neighbors in need. Monthly donation drives held the last Saturday of each month provided clothing, books, school supplies and other items that were transported to inner city organizations for distribution. We will be continuing this program in 2005. The 2005 schedule was published in last months newsletter and each months collection is noted in the bulletin. Please keep cleaning your attics and participate in this program.

Recently one of our church families contacted us and asked if we could use a washer and dryer. Not being sure, we emailed three of the organizations we supply goods to through the MO-USCO program. We were surprised that all three responded that they could use the washer and

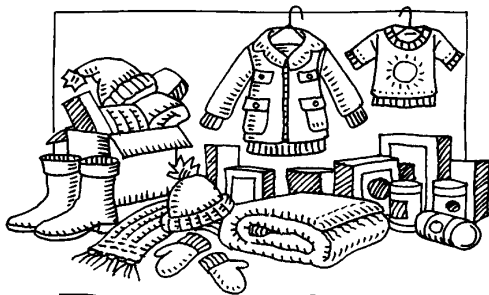
dryer. This experience as well as the experience at Christmas with the family, that had all of their household items stolen has caused us to believe that there is more that people have to give, provided we can make it convenient for them to do so.

This year we would like to include items such as furniture and appliances in our donations to urban families in need. This will be no small task; it will take coordination, from the giver and the recipient, as well as a lot of prayer, to make it successful.

Here is how the program will work when you have furniture or appliances that you would like to donate:

- Contact **Alvin Butler** by e-mail with information on the item.
- He will forward your email to the recipient organizations to see if there is an interest and arrange a pickup date.
- He will notify giver, usually within 48 hours, of desire to receive the item and date and time for pick up.
- Donation will be picked up by us or recipient organization and a receipt will be left.

Should you have questions or have items to donate, please e-mail **Alvin Butler** at Abutler850@msn.com. For questions on this and other Community Concerns activities contact **Paula Young** at 301.261.4561, or by e-mail at pyoung44@comcast.net.



Donations

Update on Justin Korpi

Below is a letter to Mount Oak from **Fred and Jacquie Heyn's** daughter, **Trudi**, and the family. Fred and Jacquie are members and missionaries of Mount Oak. Last winter Trudi's oldest son **Justin**, now 16, was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, a rare and difficult cancer. Many at Mount Oak reached out to the Korpi family during that time. We are indeed thankful to the Lord for the good report on Justin.

December 2004

Dear friends at Mount Oak United Methodist Church,

We just wanted to take a moment to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

We also wanted to thank you for all of your love, correspondence, care, and especially prayers for us this past year. We could not have gone through this battle without the body of Christ, and you all have been such an example to us of how the body of Christ is to function.

Justin is through with his protocol. He has had his first re-check in Salt Lake and is considered by the medical community to be in remission. We are grateful for the Lord's healing hand upon him. We believe that medicine

alone could not have brought about these results, and we are so thankful for God's miracles in Justin's life and body. We also have seen many other good things come out of this time. I think that everyone in our family has come to trust the Lord more. Looking back, God did so much in us in preparation for this battle. He convinced us that He loves us, and He is bringing us along the journey of learning to walk by faith. When all is said and done, this part of life is short and then we reach eternity, and nothing can compare with our relationships with Jesus and with each other.

Blessings in 2005.

Brad, Trudi, Justin, Katherine, Miles, and Wesley Korpi

Shed the Covers and Become Seasoned

By Gale TeSelle

Good firewood is hard, dry, and seasoned. But have you ever noticed wood has a tendency to rot rather than season?



A few weeks ago I went out to split a bunch of black locust logs and I began to see a similarity of these logs and my spiritual life journey. I had cut the locust into logs about a year ago and left them in a pile near the shed. In their natural state—outside, exposed to the elements, and covered with bark, they began to decay. The bark helped retain moisture and provided a dark cover attracting bugs, beetles, worms, fungus, and other nasty stuff and they were just eating away at the wood under the bark. The once hard black locust wood was softening up, deteriorating, and a few logs were just falling apart. The woodpile was in the process of becoming worthless as good seasoned firewood.

I was only going to split a few logs and leave the rest of the pile for later. But I found that as I split the logs, some of the bark came off, and every log had some beginnings of decay with various critters eating away. One of the logs that I split was partially rotten inside, all the way to the core, but it looked perfectly good from the outside. If only I had split this earlier before it had time to rot.

I decided I had better invest some time in my woodpile; taking better care of it. I peeled off the outside bark of the logs and then restacked the pile to expose the wood to as much fresh air and sunlight as possible.

The bugs and beetles and worms hiding inside hated this new arrangement and they begin to fall away almost immediately. They liked it dark and

damp. They hated sunlight. They wanted to work their rotting process in obscurity. They didn't want anyone to know they were in their eating away, destroying what could be good, seasoned firewood.

It was a bit of a painful process to peel off the bark. Sometimes it gripped the log tightly and I had to use a tool to pry and scrap away the bark. Sometimes I found a log that looked like it was trying to "shed" and all I had to do was nudge the bark off. But no matter which circumstance, once the covering bark was removed, the logs seemed to recover quickly from a sickly rotting process to a healthy seasoning process.



Once placed in the sun and fresh breeze, they dried up quickly and looked relieved as if they knew that to become seasoned firewood they needed direct exposure to the air and light. They seemed to ask ... "What took you so long to help us? These bugs and beetles and worms kept telling us we needed to stay this way, covered up for our own good, because if we became exposed no one would want us as seasoned firewood."

As I worked at improving the health of the woodpile, I began to see the analogy of spiritual health in my

own life. I remembered how good it felt to get rid of hidden sin and how much more I need others to help me see my sin and to ask prying questions to prevent cover-ups.

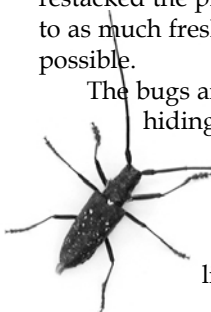
Proverbs 28:13 says: *He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.*

Ugly feelings that we hid inside eventually surface as ugly behavior. Exposure to the light early is the key. Paul writes in Ephesians "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."

With the start of a new year, maybe it is a good time to do an assessment of our seasoning process. What is interfering with our seasoning process? How many layers do we have protecting the bugs, the worms, the beetles, and decay within? How tightly are we gripping our covers? We need to let go; shed them and expose everything beneath.

We should pray for that desire and for a Godly friend to help remove the covers and expose such things to God's light so that we may begin our own healthy seasoning process.

Praise be to God, exposure to His light is love. His light is truth. His light heals and restores. His light helps us use the spiritual gifts that He gives us for His service. His light helps us become more like the SON.



Mount Oak Fellowship

A United Methodist Congregation

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Poet's Corner

The Point

*There's a point in my life
I can't seem to get past.
When I talk to You, Father,
All is well.
I can praise Your glory
And revel in Your majesty.
You are here with me,
And I am safe.
Everything is good.
Then I move from Your Presence
Back to the sinful world
I am part of.
Everything changes. I fall.
In my mind there is this point
I have not gotten past.
The point has changed,
But it still frustrates me.
I want the point to be in Your Presence,
But it remains an ever-present reality
I can't conquer.
I want to be always in Your Presence, Lord.
If I could just get past that point.*

~Jim Tallon

Friends of the Terrys

Tom and Catherine Terry are living for now in Delaware near their children while Catherine recuperates. As you may remember from your June issue of the Mount Oak Messenger, Tom has been a faithful member of Mount Oak for over 70 years. The Terrys plan to return to their Mitchellville home when Catherine regains her strength.

They really miss their Mount Oak family and would love to hear from you. Send your notes or cards to:

15 Rivers End Drive
Seaford, Delaware 19973

February 2005

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