



THE OPPC REVIEW

October 14, 2021

Out of the Blue

I was making my way through past documents earlier this week and I came across what I can only imagine was an attempt at a sermon. Here is it:

I listened this week to a member of an editorial board complain about the fact that in recent years polling data has managed to gain an increasing amount of front-page space in major newspapers. “Why is ‘what people think’ news?” he asked. “How is it that we have gotten so far away from good investigative journalism which gets into the nitty gritty? A front-page story about what a couple thousand people think is not news.” He was basically on a tirade- it was fun to watch, and I understood what he was saying, but it wasn’t until later when I sat down with Luke’s story of Jesus and the two travelers on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24) that his tirade really hit home for me.

Imagine if the Washington Post or the New York Times had bureau offices in Jerusalem at that Passover season. How many days would pass before one of them ran with a story whose headline read, “Majority Disapprove of Jesus’ Handling of Recent Events.” The reporter scoured Jerusalem all week following the Passover looking for people who had met Jesus, worshipped with Jesus, trusted Jesus, and hopefully were there waving palms when Jesus came into the city. These were the people whose hopes had been built up. They thought for sure that Jesus was going to bring about major changes not only in their lives but in the nation as well. Isaiah prophesied that “The people who walked in darkness had seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.” “I am the light of the world!” Does that sound familiar to anyone? So the reporter, ceasing on an easy story while the emotions are still high asks the question, “Do you approve of the way Jesus has handled recent events?”

(further down the page was this)

“We die to each other daily. What we know of other people is only our memory of the moments during which we knew them. And they have changed since then. To pretend that they and we are the same is a useful and convenient social convention which must sometimes be broken. We must also remember that at every meeting we are meeting a stranger.”

That’s it. I cannot tell you what direction that sermon was taking before I abandoned it. Last week while in conversation with other pastors I said, “Whenever someone asks me what I think about the end of the world, I usually respond, “Worlds are ending every day. What makes Revelation special is that rather than showing us the end of the world, it is showing us the world (kingdom) that never ends.”

Remember the Winnie the Pooh cookie jar?



Deacon Ministry

FROM YOUR DEACON TEAM

The pandemic is not being controlled very quickly, is it? Many of us feel tired, stressed, and anxious. Just when we saw signs of hope, for life getting back to some sort of normal, here we are again so unsure of the future. Your Deacon Team would like you to know that you continue to be in our prayers. Please know that we are here to help you in ways that seem right to you. We cannot help if we don't know about a particular need that you have. Please let your deacon know how he/she may help in this time of separation. Also, the Stephen Ministers are here for you too. Deborah Pendry is the contact person for that ministry.

Cindy Ezell, June King, LeeAnn Krick, Debbie Mueller, Cathy Sanders, Vern Wickline



If you have a need for minor repairs and general maintenance around your house, we have volunteers ready and willing to assist. Please contact:

Vern Wickline
4491 Tarragon Avenue
Middleburg, Florida 32068
904-364-6043
vern.wickline@gmail.com

REMEMBER: Prior to hiring a contractor, verify that they are licensed, bonded, insured and can provide references —even if you know them personally. Always ask for a written estimate which includes labor and materials. If the work costs are more than expected, make sure they tell you prior to beginning work. These days there are so many scams and people – especially the Elderly – are being taken advantage of.



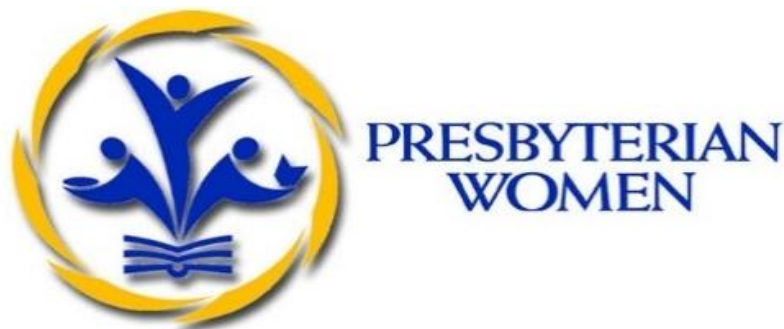
SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER is being temporarily suspended. We will keep you informed as to when the meetings will resume.

BIBLE WHERE????

Bible Where??? *1st Monday* of each month at 6:30 p.m., at V Pizza, 1605 County Rd 220 #145, Fleming Island, FL, 32003.

As a reminder, we meet for fellowship, friendship, beverages, food and a discussion of a Bible lesson. Ladies and gentlemen are all invited. The committee pays for your first beverage. You will be on your own for additional beverages and your food. Feel free to bring a friend. You might want to check the V Pizza menu <https://www.vpizza.com/eats> on the day of the meeting as it may take you some time to make a selection.

Further, for the foreseeable future, our meetings will be held at the same time and location on the 1st Monday of each month. Call Dick Mueller at 904-728-3841, if you have any questions.



CIRCLE MEETINGS

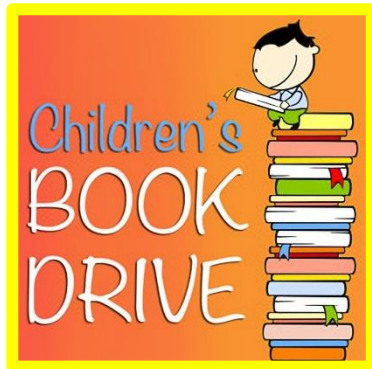
- ≈ **HOPE CIRCLE:** Tuesday, November 9th, 10:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Moderator: Betty Wengert, 269-2548.
- ≈ **REBEKAH CIRCLE:** Wednesday, November 10th, 10:30 a.m. in Church Office. Moderator: Shirley Weimer, 264-2646.
- ≈ **GRACE CIRCLE:** Thursday, November 11th, 11:45 a.m. in Gathering Place. Moderator: Jayne Donalson, 262-1909.

The study books are available in the church office or you may contact your Circle Moderator. They are \$10 each.



SEW & SEWS

The Sew & Sews meet the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to join in. Contact Bev Davis, if you would like more information (904-307-8512 or bev.davis1@icloud.com). *Please note: If things change, Bev will give you a call.*



Children's book drive: we will continue to collect books for children (any age through teens) through the end of October. Books will be given to Quigley House (displaced domestic violence victims), Mercy Support Services (homeless) and Family Promise (homeless). Leave your books in the narthex on any Sunday in October or take during the week to the church office. You can also bring to the Drive-in Donations on November 2. November is Family Literacy Month and we want to encourage ALL families to learn and read together, regardless of their situations.

NEXT DRIVE-THRU
Donation
DROP-OFF

Tuesday, November 2nd
10:00 – 11:00 am

Bring your donated books for children (see article above) and food (items such as canned and unrefrigerated packaged food to help feed larger families) for the Clothes Closet and Food Pantry. You may also bring your food donations on Sundays and leave them in the baskets in the Narthex. Please remember how great the needs still are in our community and the privilege God gives us to share with others.

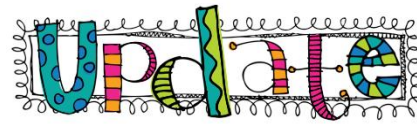
JOIN THE TEAM TO WIPE OUT HUNGER IN CLAY COUNTY!

OPPC will again send a team to the Hunger Fight Clay County packing event this fall, scheduled for *Saturday, November 6th, 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.* at the Thrasher-Horne Center on College Drive. Information at this time is limited, but please contact the church office or a Missions Team member if you want to be on the team. We'll need at least 10 people who are comfortable standing for long periods, working in an assembly-line process to create food packets.



HOLD ON TO YOUR DONATIONS FOR NOW!

We are “on hold” with our donations intended for the Afghans who will be resettling in NE Florida. Catholic Charities has asked us to hold off with any collections due to Issues in the federal resettlement process and their inadequate storage space. Because we are physically so far from the designated apartments, we won't be collecting furniture. Once more families begin to arrive, we will receive more information about what is needed and when. Thanks to the many who have volunteered to provide items. We will keep the list and contact you directly about the plans.



Here's an update about the Congolese refugee family we sponsored a few years ago. Andrew (father) recently took a new job as a butcher, having learned skills from his part-time job with Freshfields Farms. He left his job with Baptist Hospital so now works only one job that doesn't require weekends. He is working nights which allows him to pick up the children after school and to take everyone to day-time appointments. He is happy he can spend more time with his family. Chance (mother) is pregnant and the baby is due in early November. She had to stop working so she could qualify for Medicaid and receive benefits during her pregnancy. The 3 children are all well and looking forward to meeting the new baby. They purchased a house in 2020 and enjoy gardening and entertaining their friends and family.

“Remember who you are. Don't compromise for anyone, for any reason. You are a child of the Almighty God. Live that truth.” – Lysa Terkeurst



The Missions Team is looking for people willing to write articles for the newsletters, make some phone calls or deliver items the church has collected. Volunteer to do as much or little as you want or can. Every extra pair of hands help! Contact Marjorie Phillips, Paula Brunson, Barbara Koontz or the church office to learn more or to enlist as a Mission Team Volunteer!

Thank You

9/29/21



Clay County Dental Care Inc.
A non-profit 501(c)

OPPC Missions Team,

On behalf of the Clay Co. Dental Care clinic in Green Cove Springs, I would like to thank you for your generous \$500 donation to support the dental needs of our patients. The donation is especially appreciated as we seek support towards our partnership with The Way medical clinic in the near future.

Sincerely,
G. A. Ahambault
DMD

Dear Orange Park Presbyterian Church Inc 9.21

You all are so caring!
Thank you for the beautiful gift.
You all are a part of making Clay County's uninsured have a healthier life!
We appreciate it!

Shaneiff Valencia
Programs Manager



The Way Free Medical Clinic
479 Houston Street
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043



September 28, 2021

Orange Park Presbyterian Church, Inc.,
1905 Park Ave
Orange Park FL 32073-4914

Your gift makes a huge difference and we cannot make this impact without you and your amazing support. With our expanding programs, staff and curriculum growth, we have the opportunity to see lasting change in so many lives. Prayerfully, with God's help, we will continue to meet the most needs in our community, together!

God Bless you and your family!

Sincerely,

R. Patrick Hayle
Executive Director/CEO

Payment Type	Amount Received	Payment Date
Donation	\$500.00	September 24, 2021

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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

ONLINE: OPPC's membership directory is available online: However, in order to protect the personal information of our members, this document is available with a password. If you are a *member* of OPPC and would like to have access to the online directory, please call Pam at 264-0536 or send an e-mail to pam@oppresby.com and the passcode and instructions to access the document will be provided.

HARD COPY: If you are a member of OPPC and would like a hard copy of OPPC's membership directory, please call Pam at 264-0536, or e-mail pam@oppresby.com. You may pick it up in the office or it can be e-mailed or it can be sent via US mail.



Donna Doane, Judy White, The Family of Frank Elliott, Jackson Rich, Pheona Kaiser and Family, The Murray Family, Inez, Kathy, Michaela, Russ Sobolewski, Austin Sobolewski, The Family of Randy Lindquist, Steve O'Neil, The Family of Claudia Ingaldi, The Family of Jack Welkenbach, Janet Gardner, Megan, Ben Buford, Selene Gardner and Family, The Family of Otto Peucker, Michael Sullivan and Mother, Michael Grandstaff, Megan Werkmeister, Curt Miller, Charles Capallia, Linda, The Family & Friends of Lou Ann Singleterry, The Family of Nancy Powell, Judy's Family, Leslie Edwards and Family, Brenda Leto, Maureen

Chrul, Carol, Marie, Linda Broadus' great-great niece, Pat Carlile, Ron Yrabedra, The Family of Robert Zander, Quinley Family, Rita Eddins, Ed & Joan Poole, Connie Robbins, Rita Neal, Carol Kemple, Barbara, Donna Bonds, Jim Partridge, Mary Glisson Benson, Rodney Varella, Lourene Plunkett Collins, Kevin Mohr, Mike Senna, Christen Blythe, Alexandra, Fleury and Dayna, Matthew Stowers, Ken & Jerri Arsenault, James Rinker, Meagan Smeaton (aka Ms. Sweet), Pat Phillips & Family, Ekaterina Bykova, Alecia Bryla, John Adkins, Lil Johnson, Russ McKinney, Carolyn Stevens, Carol Wallace, Anthony, Marvin and Family, Ava Long, Janet Hayes, Bill Lewis, Jennifer Theurer, Ray Bandy, Anne, Lynn & Niece, Melinda, Marge Shultz, Michael Jackson, Carlye Ellison, Evelyn, Brenda Mauk, Don Aycock, Ed Hayes, Brenda, Pam Caster, Karen, Habel, TS, Joey Scott, Joan, Harold Wood, Dylan Williams, Sid & Carolyn Sewell, Jean, Danielle Hinson, Mo Moore, Pat Rabb, Myra, Millicent Sirch, Wayne Moore, Ruth Wall, Timmy Jerrell, Nancy's mom, Mary Lee, Gary Koontz, Dick Burke, Shawn & Melissa, Rrene Hewett, Steve & Anne Poole, Rhonda Hyler, Dottie & George Lane, Ray Kerbs, Patricia, Paul, Allison, Dyna King, Hayden, Betty Turnage, Gloria Hess, Ray Patterson