



OAK RIDGE

METHODIST CHURCH

R I D G E R U N N E R

WELCOME

AUGUST

Dear Oak Ridge Church Family,

As you are reading this newsletter, I will be on vacation with my family in Florida. I really enjoy my time with my family, spending time relaxing at the pool and the beach. I prefer the beach, but others in my family like the pool.

Taking time to relax & rejuvenate is important in our spiritual walk. I mention walk because there are times I feel like I am running in my spiritual life. Many times, I have heard God telling me to slow down and take a deep breath. One thing I have enjoyed for many years and often spend hours doing is sand art. Once I am finished, it really gives me a sense of accomplishment, and it is at that moment that I can sit down and relax. People walking by will make comments, and some will ask to take a picture. Some of the sand art is the same from previous years and some are new ideas. Almost always the sand art is completely gone by the next morning either by the waves or children walking all over it.

This reminds me of life sometimes. As summer is coming to an end and school is starting back soon, time is flying by faster and faster. Things that we worry and stress about in life don't really matter in the end. Spending time with God, our family, and our church family is what matters the most. I love and look forward to vacationing every year, but once it is over, I am ready to return home and get back to work that God has for me to do at Oak Ridge Methodist Church.

Thank you for allowing me to have this time to spend with my family and with God. Thank you for all your prayers and support.

Please check out all the exciting things we have going on this month and into the Fall of 2026 and may God continue to bless us so that we can be a blessing to others.

In Christ,

Pastor Mike

MISSION OF THE MONTH

H A N N A H ' S H A V E N



TRANSFORMING LIVES OUT OF THE BONDAGE OF ADDICTION

Hannah's Haven is a Christ-centered addiction recovery program for women. With the help of general partners, Hannah's Haven guides troubled women through a personalized and disciplined pathway-to-recovery in order to transform their lives by virtue of the power of Jesus Christ.

The program was founded by Bonnie Harris, who is the director. She changed her life and felt God calling her to start a ministry for women like herself.

Hannah's Haven opened in 2006 and is a member of Teen Challenge. The ministry is named after Hannah, the women in the Bible who cried out to the Lord in distress, and she gave birth to Samuel, who became a great prophet.

Hannah's Haven seeks to provide a safe, stable, and peaceful environment for women to establish a lifestyle free of drugs and alcohol. It is a structured program with 24-hour supervision designed to facilitate drug-free living and a successful transition into a productive life. The ministry will serve any woman age 18 and older who has undergone medically supervised detoxification if needed. The program consists of two phases: residential for a minimum of 12 months and non-residential for 6-12 months before graduating. The students will be provided structure, support, and strict accountability. All Hannah's Haven students must have commitment to their own recovery.

Hannah's Bridge, the thrift store in Greensboro, provides women in Phase II a chance to gain work experience and also provide supplemental income for Hannah's Haven.

With your help, Hannah's Haven can empower women and change their lives through support from Christ. Make a difference by volunteering or donating today.

P. O. Box 14724
Greensboro, NC 27415
hannahshaven.net
336-656-1066

Catch the Vision Goal: Debt Under 1 Million by Homecoming!

As we continue moving forward together in faith, we want to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has made a commitment to our 3 year Catch the Vision campaign. Your generosity, sacrifice, and dedication are making a lasting impact on our church and helping us move closer to the vision God has placed before us.

As we near the finish line of the campaign, we are setting an exciting goal: to reduce our debt to \$1 million by Homecoming, September 27th. This milestone will be a tremendous testimony to what God can accomplish through a united church family committed to stewardship and kingdom work.

If you have already fulfilled your Catch the Vision commitment, thank you for your faithfulness. Every gift, regardless of size, helps move us closer to this important goal. Currently, our loan balance is \$1,132,314! For those who have an outstanding balance on their commitment, please be on the lookout for a reminder email in the coming weeks. These reminders are intended simply as a helpful courtesy and an opportunity to review your pledge and prayerfully consider completing your commitment as you are able.

Thank you again for your continued generosity, encouragement, and support. Together, we are catching the vision, investing in the future, and trusting God for great things ahead.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us..." — Ephesians 3:20

Let's continue working together toward our Homecoming goal of reducing our debt to \$1 million!

Quarterly Financial Update

Q2 2026

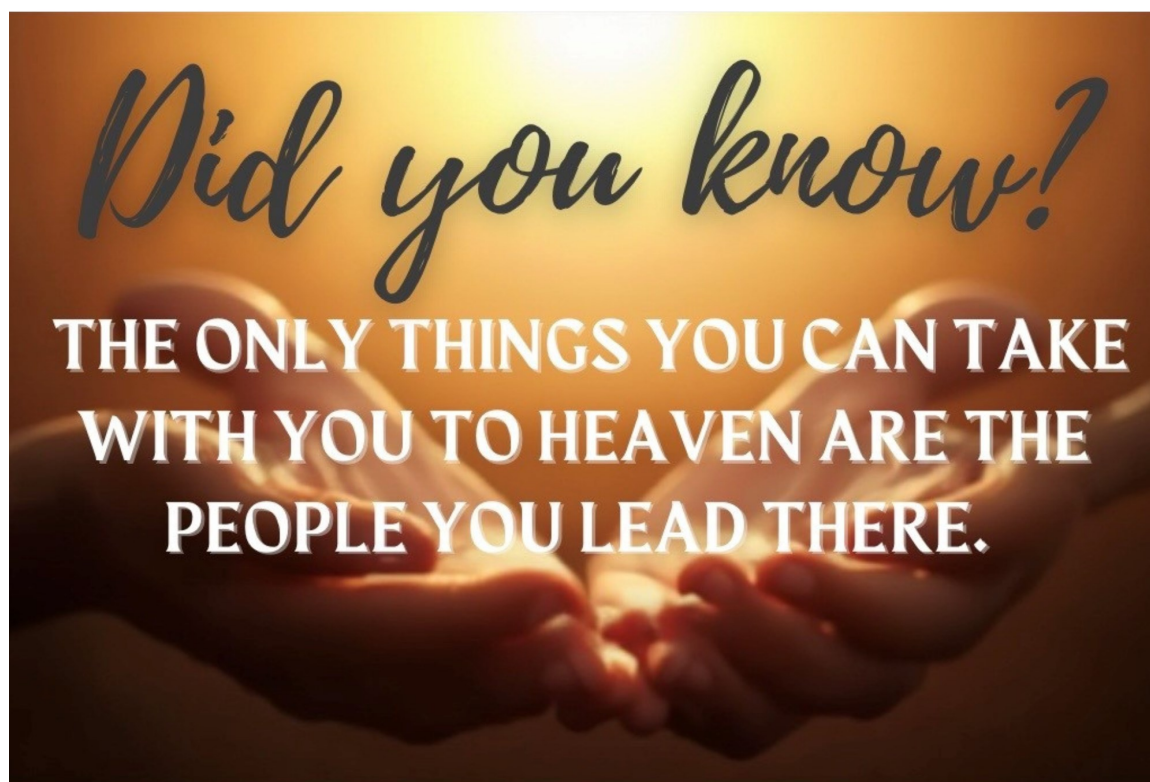
***This quarterly financial update includes only the expenses incurred to date. Many of our significant annual obligations are scheduled for later in the year, and those costs will be reflected in future reports.**

INCOME

Gifts (Tithes & Offerings)	\$608,439
----------------------------	------------------

EXPENSES

Worship (Sunday services)	\$58,768
Discipleship (children, youth, education)	\$140,533
Outreach (missions, missionary support)	\$19,291
Facilities (utilities, repairs, insurance)	\$102,348
Administration (connectional funding, interest, communications)	\$152,114
Total Expenses	\$473,054



Children's Ministry

Celebrating Rainforest Falls VBS



Coming
Soon....

Water Day
August 16
2-4 PM

Raindate
August 23





Practicing
THE WAY OF
Jesus

- LEARNING
- PRAYING
- GATHERING
- RESTING
- CONTRIBUTING



We have had an incredible month despite our service day with Glenwood Together being cancelled. Our students have been hard at work helping with VBS. Our Wednesday morning bible study has been life giving, and the times we gather for fun are full of memories made. We were given the opportunity to host the Community Youth event and had 5 different churches represented. The next Community Youth Event is scheduled for September 26th at Kernersville Wesleyan. We will be in Lumberton July 26-31 for our Mission Trip, and I cannot wait to see what the Lord does. This month I encourage you to keep our students in mind as they prepare to return to school.

August

8/2 - Sabbath Sunday

8/9 - Pool Party @ The Hoover's 6-8pm

8/12 - 10:30am Bible Study

8/16 - Family Game Night in FLC 6-8pm
(bring a fingerfood to share)

8/19 - 10:30am Bible Study

8/23 - Family Lunch @ Burrito Shak
(Immediately following 2nd service)

8/28 - NW Football Tailgate @ ORMC
(5pm start, will head to game at 6:15pm)

8/30 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge 6-8pm
1st night for rising 6th graders
ALL PARENT meeting 6pm

A few changes in our August schedule. Aug. 16th & 23rd are for the whole family - We hope you can join us!



Back 2 School Tailgate
The tailgate will be held 9/13 6-8pm
in the back parking lot of ORMC!
We are asking parents to decorate a
table in a favorite team or your
students sport/hobby and provide a
fingerfood! Please use the
BACK 2 SCHOOL SIGN-UP HERE



Text @theridgemc to 81010



jon.christ@oakridgemc.org



336-689-5524

CHILD ACTION INITIATIVE

LUBUMBASHI DRC

DISTRIBUTION OF 160 PAIRS OF SHOES AND SOCKS (2026)



The testimonies of children in Kasungami and Kanyaka who received new shoes and socks highlight several important changes. More than 60 children received shoes for the first time, helping them overcome parasites, restore the dignity needed to attend school, and experience joy.

Free education means little if a child cannot arrive ready to learn. Uniforms, supplies, and new shoes are basic necessities that show a child is prepared and able to learn. The children are grateful to ORMC and its donors for these gifts.

Children were deeply relieved to no longer walk barefoot through soil infected with hookworms, known locally as jiggers. These painful foot infections can prevent vulnerable children in Kasungami and Kanyaka from walking to school.



Leticia, dropped out school when she was 7 years old. Her grandmother could not afford to cover school shoes and supplies. Now, she can study because shoes, socks, uniforms and supplies have been provided over 5 years. Paying school and supplies was the financial burden on her grandmother. She feels relaxed as the Ministry through ORMC supports has taken that financial burden away and put confidence back.



Lekki, 14 years old said; shoes and socks are alleviating Family Burden. I can watch how my family members struggle to buy a pair of shoes where food always take priority over clothes. Receiving shoes lifts a heavy financial burden off my family and I thank God for that. I am so proud as I am the only one who is going to school in my family.



Divine, 13 years old: new shoes make me feel like I can fly. I did not want to sleep tonight. I kept them right next to my pillow



Alice, 13 years old: I can walk to school without stopping and Kanyaka taking short cut. The long dirt path feels much shorter now. I used to feel ashamed of my feet. Now I look like the other school children.



Aimee, 12 years old, so excited, showing a pair of shoes and socks



Swana, 15 years old: upon being surprised with a brand-new pair of school shoes. He became visually overwhelmed with emotion. When asked what size do you wear, It took time, he had to choose and can fit.



Annie, 12 years old, I am the more blessed in my family to go to school



Angel, 13 years old, I can walk to school without stopping. The long dirt path feels much shorter now. I used to feel ashamed of my feet. Now I look like the other school children.



Kaji, on my way to school, the ground used to hurt my feet daily, especially with Kasungami puppy roads. Now the sharp stones will not prick me. My feet will not get cuts anymore.



Nelly, 8 years old, never expected to wear new shoes in my life.

By Isaiah Njimbu Chot

We always thank God for all of you, continually mentioning you in our prayers. 1 Thessalonians 1:2

Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS



ANDY PHELPS
JOINED JUNE 21



KELLY & ANNETTE JOYCE
JOINED JULY 12



JOHN & LINDA COMERFORD
JOINED JULY 12



EDDIE & KRISTIN GAFFORD
JOINED MAY 31





We have been enjoying a wonderful summer at the Weekday School! Our summer camp children have been having a great time on daily field trips, while our full-time children are staying cool with weekly water play and enjoying fun summer themes and activities.

We are also excited to share some wonderful news! We recently completed our Star-Rated License Assessment and are pleased to announce that we have maintained our Five-Star rating. Licensed childcare centers are typically assessed every three years; however, our last assessment was in 2018. The assessment process was paused for several years due to COVID-19, and during that time the state revised both the assessment tool and assessment process.

We are so grateful for our dedicated staff, whose hard work, commitment, and perseverance made this accomplishment possible. God has blessed the Weekday School, and we are thankful for His guidance as we continue to provide a safe, nurturing, and loving environment where children can learn and grow.

Thank you for keeping the Weekday School in your prayers as we continue serving the children and families of the church and community.







ORMC Staff

Church Office / 336-643-4690

Senior Pastor, Rev. Mike Carr, mike.carr@oakridgemc.org, 336-643-4690 ext. 205 / cell 704-574-0888

Pastor of Visitation, Tony Dowdy, tony.dowdy@oakridgemc.org, 336-918-8681

Youth Pastor, Jon Christ, jon.christ@oakridgemc.org, 336-643-4690

Director, Children & Family Ministries, Larissa Brown, larissa.brown@oakridgemc.org, ext. 203

Director, Choir, Elizabeth Crouch, elizabeth.crouch@oakridgemc.org

Accompanist, Lynn Gordon, lynn.gordon@oakridgemc.org

Praise Band Worship Leader, Jessie Gillie, jessie.gillie@oakridgemc.org

AV and Media Producer, David Dudley, david.dudley@oakridgemc.org

Director, Weekday School, Jamie Hatchell, jamie.hatchell@oakridgemc.org ext. 208

Director, Finance, Monica Bogle, monica.bogle@oakridgemc.org, ext. 218

Manager, Facilities, Jack Polakowski, jack.polakowski@oakridgemc.org, ext. 219

Sr. Pastor's Assistant/Scheduling & Membership Coordinator, Phyllis Rowe, phyllis.rowe@oakridgemc.org, ext. 211

Ministry Support Assistant, Tara Blake, tara.blake@oakridgemc.org, ext. 201