



# OAK RIDGE

## METHODIST CHURCH

### December 2025 Ridgerunner

Dear Oak Ridge Church Family,

This year we entered the season of Advent on the last day of November. Advent is a sacred time of preparation—a season in which we ready our hearts and souls for the great celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It's important that we prepare well so that we never lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. No matter how much the world pulls our attention toward bright lights and what sits beneath the tree, our focus must remain on the true Light—Jesus Christ, born of a virgin and lying in a manger.

The first part of our mission statement begins, “Rooted in God’s Truth.” Our Advent sermon series this year is called “Roots: Advent and the Family Story of Jesus.” We will explore the deep roots of Jesus that reach back to the “Jesse Tree.” Dan Wilt shares, “We all come from someone, somewhere, and something—a people, a place, and a story. So does Jesus. The heart and mission of Emmanuel, God with us, is more profoundly understood by exploring the well-watered roots that flowed into Jesus’ life as the Word made flesh (John 1:14).”

I hope you will join us each Sunday as we grow spiritually and prepare for the celebration to come. Please invite others to worship with you—we’d love to have them at Oak Ridge Methodist Church and God may use your invitation in a way that changes someone’s life.

Please also mark your calendars for Sunday, December 14, when we will have a combined service at 11:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. Our children, youth, choir, and praise band will lead us in what promises to be a powerful and joyful time of worship.

I pray that this Advent Season will be a blessing to you and your family, and that you will overflow with the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of Jesus Christ.

Take care and God Bless,

Pastor Mike

# FEEDING THE HUNGRY

## DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

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**Greensboro Urban Ministry (GUM)** - This ministry serves dinner the FIRST FRIDAY every other month at the shelter. Serving is typically from 6:30-8pm in downtown Greensboro. Our church has been providing service and support to this ministry for over 25 years. We look for groups to take on the food purchase, prep and serving for the months we are assigned (Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct and Dec). We serve between 60-100 residents. If your Sunday school class, youth group or small group would like to take a month, please contact [alison.huber@dynamicquest.com](mailto:alison.huber@dynamicquest.com) to see which months are available.



**Good Samaritan Ministries (GSM)** - This is truly a local mission, serving those in need who live in northwest Guilford County. There are 11 participating churches in Stokesdale and Oak Ridge who support this ministry. No one is turned away. A family is only asked to provide a name and address for record-keeping purposes.

The pantry is located at Gideon Grove United Methodist Church, 2865 Gideon Grove Church Rd in Stokesdale. Each month each church is responsible for providing 2-3 different food items to replenish the pantry. Then on the fourth Saturday of each month, the pantry opens to distribute boxes of food to all who come. The boxes are substantial, containing approximately 30 lbs. of 17 different items of food. This is enough to provide a family of 4 basic nutrition for about a week. If a family is larger, they receive two boxes. In March and November, Oak Ridge Methodist Church is responsible for distributing the food boxes.

Good Samaritan Ministries also offers emergency financial assistance for those who need help with critical expenses, such as utility bills or rent. The requests are verified, and money is paid directly to the utility or landlord.

ORMC supports this ministry through our general budget and through your financial support of GSM as a Mission of the Month. Christmas Cards are also sold that support GSM. These cards are available from Sheila Gallow.

Sheila Gallow or MaryEllen Florence, [sheilabeth516@icloud.com](mailto:sheilabeth516@icloud.com), [meflorence30@gmail.com](mailto:meflorence30@gmail.com)



**The Servant Center** - This organization houses disabled homeless veterans near downtown Greensboro. They have two levels of residents at The Servant Center, and the residents can graduate to more permanent but low-cost housing. They have an 85% success rate of working with residents to be independent. For more information on how to get involved with this ministry, contact Bruce Szafran, [bruce.szafran@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.szafran@gmail.com)

# CREATIVE WAYS TO OPTIMIZE YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING IN 2025

As we approach the end of 2025, it's time to think creatively about how to maximize your charitable contributions and potentially reduce your tax burden. Here are some strategic giving options to consider:

## 1. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

If you are 70 ½ or older by December 31, 2025, you can contribute up to \$108,000 from your IRA to a qualifying charity like Oak Ridge Methodist Church. This strategy allows you to make a significant impact without increasing your taxable income—ideal for those who don't itemize deductions.

## 2. Donate Appreciated Securities

By donating stocks or other appreciated securities, you can avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale while still receiving a charitable deduction for the full value of the asset. This is a win-win strategy that benefits both you and the charity.

## 3. Bunching Contributions

Due to the challenge of reaching the itemized deductions threshold, consider "bunching" your charitable contributions. This involves making several years' worth of donations in one year to exceed the itemization threshold, allowing you to take the standard deduction in other years.

## 4. Establish a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

Contributing to a DAF in 2025 allows you to take a full deduction now while distributing the funds to charities over time. This offers flexibility in your giving strategy and can help you manage your tax situation effectively.

These strategies not only support your favorite causes but also offer significant tax advantages. As always, it's wise to consult with a tax advisor to tailor these strategies to your personal financial situation and ensure compliance with the latest tax laws.

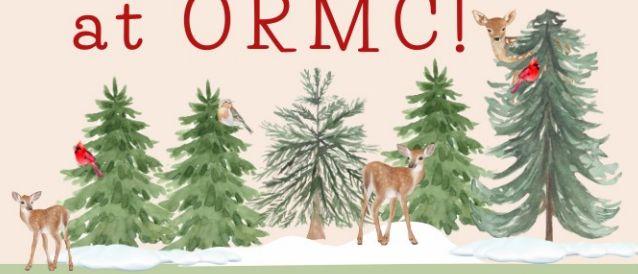
Remember, 2025 marks the last year under the current tax legislation, so taking action now can set you up for both giving success and tax efficiency.



# HELLO DECEMBER



What's going on  
at ORMCC!



Wednesday Evening Fellowship Dinner  
December 10 at 6:00pm  
\$5 - Adults / Children eat free

Only God Choir



Menu

Ham / Green Beans / Mac - n - Cheese  
Desserts



**Please  
Give  
Blood.**

**BLOOD DRIVE**

**December 8, 2025**

**1:30 - 6:30pm**

Family Life Center (FLC)

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT  
AT 5:30**

...Celebrate the  
Reason for the Season

Instant Christmas Pageant  
and Storybook Farm  
Open House

**SATURDAY DEC. 13TH**  
**4:00-6:00PM**  
**RESCHEDULED**

793 Baynes Rd., Reidsville

**Come dressed as an Angel, Shepherd, or Wise Man !!**

STEVE & BETH JOHNSON

Singing  
Hot Chocolate  
Fire Pit

[www.StorybookFarmInc.org](http://www.StorybookFarmInc.org)





# Children's Ministry

## Celebrating Crafty Thursdays



## Coming in December

### ***Gingerbread Sunday***

**YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILY EVENT**

**December 7\* 10 AM \* Fellowship Hall**

**ENJOY SOME  
FAMILY TIME AND  
BUILD A  
GINGERBREAD  
HOUSE TOGETHER**



### **Stokesdale Christmas Parade**

**December 13  
2:00 PM**

**Children on the  
float with Youth  
and Adults walking**

### **Happy Birthday Jesus Party**

**December 21  
10 AM**

**Ridge Kids Room**

**For Children and Families**





## Practicing THE WAY OF Jesus

- LEARNING
- PRAYING
- GATHERING
- RESTING
- CONTRIBUTING



### November Recap

We had an AMAZING month of November @ The Ridge! We spent the first part of the month in a series called "Part of The Family" where we explored our role in this family we have as the Body of Christ, and as The Ridge! We capped it off with our "Friendsgiving" where we had Thanksgiving as a Ridge Family, and our very own Sarah Allen led us in a message about "True Thankfulness." We also went to Spring Arbor and spent time with those in the Memory Care Unit singing songs and helping them make their very own Christmas Trees for their rooms! What an AMAZING month November was @ The Ridge!

### CONTRIBUTING



PRACTICING THE  
WAY OF JESUS

### Contributing.

We will be serving at the Glenwood community center on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 11-1pm.

We will be helping community kids make Christmas gifts for loved ones. Our church will have 4 tables and we will need plenty of help!

Stay for a little bit or the whole time - whatever time your schedule will allow.

Meet at: 1310 Glenwood Ave. Greensboro, NC 27403



### Christmas Shenanigans December 7th 3-6:30pm

See the timeline in the graphic above. Make sure your student brings a sweatshirt if they would like to make a Christmas sweater.



## SABBATH SUNDAY

Rest | Practicing the way of Jesus

### Sabbath Sunday December 28th

As we intentionally set time aside, we encourage our students to take time to spend with family, rest, unplug and reset.



Text @theridgemc to 81010



jon.christ@oakridgemc.org



336-689-5524





Our Resurrection conference signups are closed! We have reached our limit and are excited for what the Lord has prepared for us. Please keep our students in your prayers as we get closer to the conference!

## December @ THE RIDGE

12/6 - 11am-1pm - Glenwood  
Christmas Shop  
(1310 Glenwood Ave. Greensboro)

12/7 - 3-6:30pm Christmas  
Caroling, Hot Cocoa bar and  
Christmas Sweaters

12/10 - Community Dinner

12/13 - 2:00pm - Stokesdale  
Christmas Parade

12/14 - 6-8pm The Ridge  
Theme: 4<sup>th</sup> of July

12/21 - 6-8pm The Ridge  
Christmas Party

12/28 - Sabbath Sunday







# *December Events*

**Sunday, Dec 7: 10 AM Gingerbread Sunday; Children and Family Event; Room D-204**

**Sunday, Dec 7: 3-5 PM Christmas Caroling; Front Parking Lot**

**Sunday, Dec 7: 5-7 PM Youth Decorating Ugly Sweaters and Open Gym; Youth Lounge**

**Wednesday, Dec 10: 6 PM Meal, 6:30 PM Only God Choir, Family Life Center**

**Saturday, Dec 13: 2 PM Stokesdale Christmas Parade, Downtown Stokesdale; for all ages**

**Sunday, Dec 14: 11: AM; Christmas Program; One Service; Family Life Center**

**Wednesday, Dec 17: 6 PM, Blue Christmas Service; Sanctuary**

**Sunday, Dec 21: 10 AM Happy Birthday, Jesus Party; Children and Family Event, Room D-204**

**Sunday, Dec 21: 6-8 PM Youth Christmas Party; Youth Lounge**

**Wednesday, Dec 24: Christmas Eve Services**

**4 PM Contemporary Service, Family Life Center**

**6 PM Traditional Service, Sanctuary**

**Sunday, Dec 28: 9 AM One Service Sanctuary**

**Oak Ridge Methodist Church  
2424 Oak Ridge Road Oak Ridge NC**



# CHILD ACTION INITIATIVE

302 Guy Kalend Golf, Lubumbashi, Haut-Katanga

Democratic Republic of the Congo



Greetings in Christ from the Ministry. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV)

Thank you for the continued support you have shown us this year. It has been a busy, but very exciting year. This newsletter highlights the impact we are having on the vulnerable children (orphans, former child soldiers, street kids) in Kanyaka and Kasungami, settlements in DRC, home to displaced people who have fled conflict further north.

Throughout this year we have had the privilege of watching our programs flourish. Within this newsletter you will hear some incredible testimonies which are truly inspiring and show first-hand the impact this ministry can have on individuals.

Remember, oftentimes, extended family members take orphans into their already crowded homes, but this still leaves them vulnerable as they share already stretched resources. Consequently, most of these children are left with their poor grandparents some are left as homeless orphans, hence ending up on streets or getting involved into high-risk groups such as army groups, vendors or breadwinners without education. For these reasons it is vital for us to continue our work and support children living in extreme poverty.

**Education:** It was a blessing this year to send 30 vulnerable children to school. We provided uniforms, backpacks filled with appropriate school supplies and paid school fees so children can go to school feeling confident, aligned with their peers, and prepared to learn. We praise God as our children displayed positive improvement and performance in both their classwork and attendance at school. Among these children some are in primary schools, and some are in secondary schools. Some others are in vocational training where they are gaining different skills in welding, sewing, mechanics and masonry including making cement blocks at Amani. For a follow-up, we made frequent visits to different schools to monitor the children's progress. They are very excited when they see us. The impact is so positive, they are gaining skills and improving life conditions.



*Aimee said: "We are happy and thankful for the opportunity to go to school. Education provides us with opportunities to build positive relationships, develop social skills, and learn important life skills such as teamwork and leadership. It teaches us to socialize with people in society and outside the family. We thank donors and express our acknowledgements".*

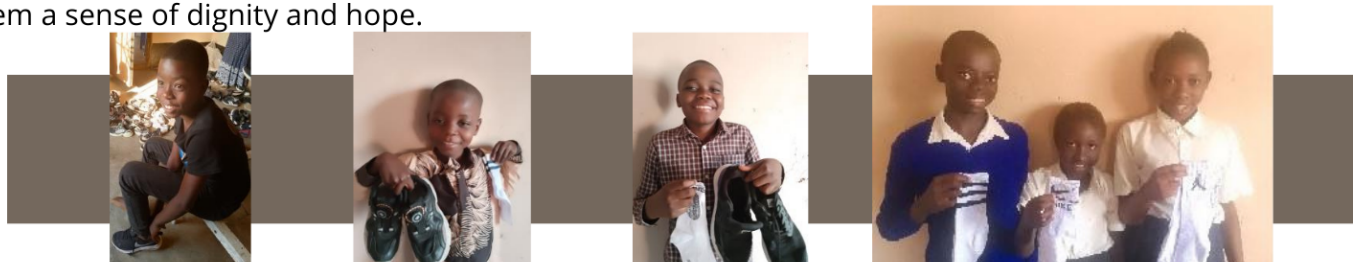
**Amani Home:** Amani means peace in Swahili. At Amani children's home, we keep providing a safe, stable, and caring environment for 15 boys who cannot live with their family members due to abuse, neglect, or other difficult circumstances. We offer basic needs, food, emotional support, access to education and healthcare. During their spare time, we help them develop life skills to prepare for independent living such as growing vegetables, making cement blocks, cleaning, washing and cooking food. Additionally, we provided weekly tutorial to help them improve in specific subjects. We also integrated weekly biblical teachings that focus on spiritual, moral and integrity development. The children are enjoying life in Amani.



*Arsel said "It was so painful when I was living a street life. On the street my life turned very bad. There was no food, clothes, shoes, medication or education But since we are living in this home, I am so happy, it is a nice place of affection and to learn life skills. I can sweep, cook, grow vegetables and share stories with my roommates. My behavior has positively changed."*

**Shoes Distribution:** 100 children benefited with pairs of shoes and socks this year. The distribution was a special event and a day of joy. They were filled with emotion and excitement after receiving new shoes and socks.

Shoes and socks distribution always brings positive impact on education, health, and overall, well-being of our children. In some areas of Kasungami and Kanyaka jiggers are prevalent. Jiggers, caused by the Tunga penetrans flea, are a significant public health issue in Africa, particularly affecting impoverished communities and leading to severe health complications. The shoes act as a barrier against infection from jiggers. They also protect from parasitic worms, hookworms, injury, and soil-borne diseases. This ensures children are attending school with proper gear and gives them a sense of dignity and hope. The shoes act as a barrier against infection from jiggers. They also protect from parasitic worms, hookworms, injury, and soil-borne diseases. This ensures children are attending school with proper gear and gives them a sense of dignity and hope.



**Construction of Kanyaka Chapel:** This building is an endeavor that carries not just the hope of a building, but the promise of a stronger community. This chapel is not just a symbol, but



a beacon of faith that has started giving the villagers a sense of identity, pride, and fulfillment. It has a multifold impact on the community. First, church members have a dedicated space for gathering and a place from which to carry out the ministry of the church. It provided worship services for the community and Amani children, and it is a place for youth and women meetings.

*"It attracts the attention of the whole area and draws people toward opportunities to hear the Gospel and experience the love of God in Christian community", said Pastor Mukala.*

**Clean drinking water:** We keep providing safe drinking water to many families through the borehole wells at Amani Children's Home in Kanyaka and Nazareth Church in Kasungami. People in these areas face challenges to get safe drinking water. The community had a main source of water from a river, which is very poor quality and not suitable for drinking. They are very happy for the opportunity to get clean drinking water from the well.



In closing, we would like to thank you for your support and prayers. Because of your generosity and faithfulness, we can train future community leaders, who can make a lasting impact in their communities.

Isaiah Njimbu Chot, Missionary



# BRUNSWICK STEW 2025







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