



Dear Oak Ridge Church Family,

Sadly, summer has come to an end, and all schools have started back. Last Sunday, many of you went to various schools and prayed for all the students, teachers, and staff to have a positive, productive, and safe school year. We are a church that believes in the power of prayer, and it was a blessing to pray for them.

As we move back in the new rhythms of life, I want us to think about our spiritual rhythms. Ask yourself this question, how is it with my soul? This is a John Wesley question that was asked every time his small group met. We all have habits that are good and bad, and those habits create rhythms in our lives that cause us to move closer to God or further away from God. Look at your rhythms of life and ask God to show you what adjustments can be made. Ask someone like another disciple of Jesus Christ to pray for you, encourage you, and hold you accountable with these new habits and rhythms.

One of my prayers is that every member of our church is in a disciple-making small group. Many people attend Sunday School class which is a good place to start. We are hoping to create more small groups and Grow Groups this Fall. If God is nudging you to be a host or a facilitator for one of these Grow Groups, please reach out to Pastor Mike. They last for only 6 weeks. It is a great opportunity to try something new and see if it was fruitful for you. Please join me in praying for more opportunities for us all to grow in our faith.

Remember that the last Sunday in this month - Sept. 27 is Homecoming. We will have one combined worship service at 10:30am in the Family Life Center. Rev. Terry Moore, one of our former pastors, who served here from 1995 to 2001, will be preaching. We will be blessed to have him and his wife, Nancy, join us for worship. Also, we all look forward to the covered-dished luncheon after the worship service.

I look forward to what God will continue to do at Oak Ridge Methodist Church!

Take care and God Bless, Pastor Mike

Did you know?

2,350 VERSES IN THE BIBLE ARE
RELATED TO MONEY AND
POSSESSIONS BECAUSE JESUS KNOWS
THAT YOUR MONEY IS WHERE YOUR
HEART IS.

Empower Guatemala: Stove & Water Filter Ministry

How Your Support Transforms Lives in Guatemala



Why do we go? If you look at the photos featured in this issue, the answer becomes immediately clear. Standing in a typical kitchen beside an open wood fire, you see the stark reality of daily life for most of the families we serve through Empower Guatemala. With few material possessions and everyday resources stretched to the limit, providing a safe stove or clean water filtration system for their children is simply out of reach. Without our support, nothing changes for them—these life-improving tools remain impossible to afford.

That is why the most critical foundation of our work starts right here: raising the funds to make transformation

possible.

While sending volunteers builds deep, life-changing connections for our team members—whether it is their first trip or their tenth—our goal is to ensure the ministry belongs to the Guatemalan people. We want the local church to fully own and direct this ministry. When the local pastor and his congregation take true ownership, the impact is far more effective and enduring. They identify families in need, prepare homes, distribute materials, work alongside us during construction, and provide ongoing training and spiritual follow-up after we leave—using this outreach to bring people closer to God.



Our mission also reaches far beyond stoves and water filters. In addition to these essential installations, our volunteers will carry close to 100 checked bags filled with everyday necessities: LuoPads, medicines, prenatal and children's vitamins, reading glasses, clothing, and English books to support language learning. The pastor skillfully uses these resources across several communities to build trust, strengthen relationships, and create new opportunities to share the message of the Gospel.

This September, Empower Guatemala is our **Mission of the Month**. We are preparing to send three teams in January to serve 450 families! For **\$300**, you can sponsor a family and provide a concrete kitchen floor, a vented stove, a water filter, deworming medication, vitamins, and hands-on training from the local church team. You can sponsor a full family, a portion of one, or even multiple families. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Please memo your donation "**Guatemala stoves.**"

As we prepare, please join us in praying for our upcoming teams, for the local pastors leading on the ground, and for the 450 families whose lives and health will be transformed. Your prayers, generous contributions, and ongoing support truly make this mission possible. When we embrace God's call to serve with open hearts, we see His blessings multiply in astonishing ways.

CATCH THE VISION, *Now, Let's Live the Vision.*



THREE YEARS.
ONE VISION.
A TREMENDOUS
RESPONSE.



Three years ago, Oak Ridge Methodist Church launched *Catch the Vision*—a three-year campaign to help pay down the loan on our Family Life Center.

**YOU RESPONDED WITH
INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY.**

Generosity in action.

TODAY,
OUR REMAINING LOAN BALANCE IS

**\$1.041
MILLION**
and dropping!



**THAT'S WORTH
*Celebrating!***

But reaching the end of a campaign does not mean reaching the end of our responsibility.

**IT MEANS WE ARE ENTERING
A NEW CHAPTER.**



WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED



We made extraordinary progress through faithful giving and commitment.



We worked together as one church family with one vision.



We have invested in a place where lives are changed and ministries flourish.

**TOGETHER, WE HAVE MADE AN
EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT!**



WHAT COMES NEXT

Beginning next year, the remaining Family Life Center loan will become part of our General Fund operating budget, along with the ongoing costs of maintaining and caring for our church facilities.



LOAN
PAYMENTS



MAINTENANCE



REPAIRS



CAPITAL
NEEDS



UPKEEP



OUR BUILDINGS ARE MORE THAN BRICKS AND MORTAR.

They are places where ministry happens.

They are where we worship, teach, gather, serve, fellowship, welcome our community, and introduce people to the love of Jesus Christ.

**NOW WE NEED
*Your Help.***

As we move into this next chapter, we are asking every member and family to prayerfully consider increasing their giving to the General Fund.



For some, that may mean increasing a weekly or monthly gift.



For others, it may mean making the General Fund the primary place you give.



For still others, it may mean beginning a regular pattern of giving.

EVERY GIFT MATTERS.

Generosity in action.



**OAK RIDGE
METHODIST CHURCH**
— NORTH CAROLINA —

FROM A CAMPAIGN TO A CULTURE.

Catch the Vision was a three-year campaign. Generosity is not. Our goal is to continue building a church where generosity isn't something we do only when there is a special need or campaign. Generosity is who we are.



**CATCH THE VISION.
LIVE THE VISION.
GIVE FOR
THE FUTURE.**



We have seen what happens when we work together. Now let's continue that momentum as we support the ministries, people, and facilities God has entrusted to us.

Thank you!



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.



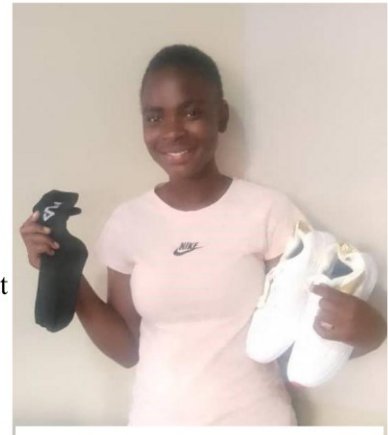
Lekki, 14 years old said; shoes and socks are alleviating Family Burden. I can watch how my family members struggle to buy a pair of shoes where food always take priority over clothes. Receiving shoes lifts a heavy financial burden off my family and I thank God for that. I am so proud as I am the only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



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.



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



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 Njumbu Chot

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

ORMC Children's Ministry Celebrating Water Day



Coming Soon...

Free Snowcones for Kids

Monday, September 14
2:00-4:00 PM
Picnic Shelter

Open to everyone!
Bring friends!



Faith and Craft Hour



Ridge Kids Room
3:00 PM

PreK: October 7
Grades K-1: October 21
Grades 2-3: November 18
Grades 4-5: December 2





Practicing
THE WAY OF
Jesus

- LEARNING
- PRAYING
- GATHERING
- RESTING
- CONTRIBUTING

August RECAP

August has been a wonderful month in the life of The Ridge! The greatest part of the month had to be the way we started the month! Our Mission Trip to Lumberton, NC was more than we could have imagined it would be! The Lord moved in mighty ways in our hearts, minds and lives, and we were also able to help a family who was in need of a new deck and ramp! We built this deck and ramp in 3 days, and I could not be more proud of our students! We also had an AMAZING Family Game Night where not only did our students gather together to play games, but their Parents and Families gathered as well! We are so excited to Kick-Off the School Year and see all that God has in store for The Ridge Student Ministry!



BACK 2 SCHOOL BASH

Kicking off our semester September 13th. We will need as much parent participation as possible. Please use sign-up genius to let us know what you are bringing [Back-To-School-Bash Sign-up Here](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTING

Friday, Sept 25th MIDDLE SCHOOLERS will meet at the church at 6pm. We will enjoy pizza together and head to Sky Zone. You can buy tickets on their website for a 120-minute jump at 7pm or send \$30 cash and we will get their ticket at the door. IN ORDER TO JUMP ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR A NEON OR WHITE SHIRT! Please visit their website to fill out the waiver We hope to be back to the church by 9:30pm.



FALL RETREAT

Leave: 10/9 4pm
Return: 10/11 12pm
Where: Camp Caraway
Sophia, NC
Cost: \$100
Who: ALL STUDENTS
Must Be Registered by
September 23rd

****NO EXTENTIONS****

Click Picture to Register!



Text @theridgemc to 81010



jonc.christ@oakridgemc.org



336-689-5524

BACK 2 SCHOOL TAILGATE

JOIN US ON SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 13TH
6:00-8:00PM

**PARENTS!!
WE NEED
YOUR HELP!!**

@ THE BACK 2
SCHOOL Tailgate
-SEPTEMBER 13TH 6-8PM

-decorate a table

(your students sport or
your favorite team)

-provide a finger
food for your table

-stay for the
event and serve
at your table

SEPTEMBER @THE RIDGE

9/6 - Sabbath Sunday

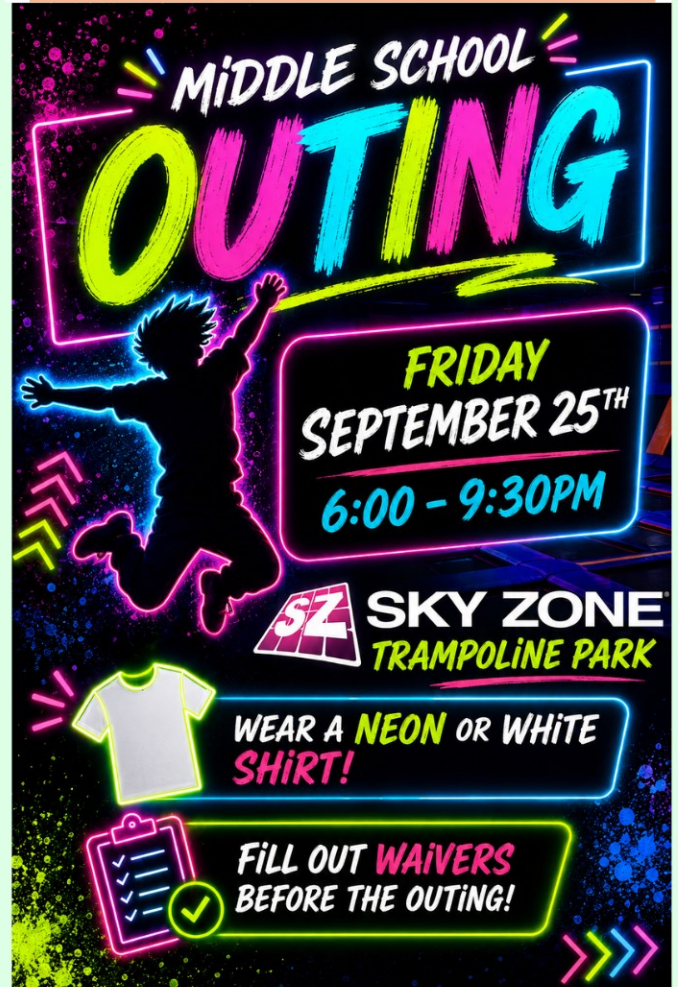
9/10 - HS Hang @Pastor Jon's House

9/13 - Fall Kickoff TAILGATE*

9/20 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge

9/25 - Middle School Outing

9/27 - HOMECOMING



**MIDDLE SCHOOL
OUTING**

**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 25TH
6:00 - 9:30PM**

**SZ SKY ZONE
TRAMPOLINE PARK**

**WEAR A NEON OR WHITE
SHIRT!**

**FILL OUT WAIVERS
BEFORE THE OUTING!**

2026 FALL SEMESTER @THE RIDGE

Text @theridgemc to 81010 for Updates

September

9/6 - Sabbath Sunday
9/10 - HS Hang
9/13 - Fall Kickoff TAILGATE*
9/20 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge
9/25 - Middle School Outing
9/27 - HOMECOMING

November

11/1 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge
11/8 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge
11/15 - FRIENDSGIVING*
11/22 - Family Serve
11/29 - Sabbath Sunday

October

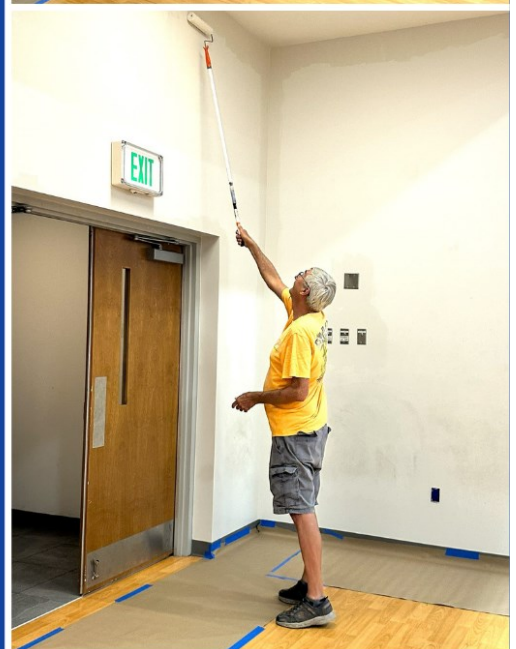
10/4 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge
10/9-10/11 - FALL RETREAT
10/18 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge
10/25 - Trunk or Treat (TOY STORY)
10/31 - HS Hang

December

12/5 - Glenwood Christmas Shop
12/6 - CHRISTMAS PARTY*
12/12 - Stokesdale Christmas Parade
12/13 - Sunday Night @ The Ridge
12/20 - Tanglewood Hayride
12/27 - Sabbath Sunday

NOTES:

- Sunday night @ the Ridge are normal Youth nights
- Star* items - be on the lookout for a sign-up genius
- Sabbath Sunday - we encourage students to rest, recharge and reset.
- Fall Retreat is an overnight away trip more details to come.



Thank You!

HELLO September

Wednesday Fellowship Dinner Music for Missions

September 16 @6pm



Potato Bar & Fixins

*No charge for meal



*Donations towards Guatemala Stoves & Water Filters

Join us for a Night of a Variety of Music & a meal as we raise funds to supply stoves & water filters for families in Guatemala

LET'S MAHJONG!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH

10AM - NOON

ORMC FELLOWSHIP HALL



Are you ready for a fun morning of craks, bams and dots??

For more info or to RSVP
call/text/email Kim Jackson at
704-576-8429 or
kjacksonathome@gmail.com

FOR FIRST TIMERS, LONG
TIMERS, AND EVERYTHING IN
BETWEEN!!

HOMECOMING 2026

Sunday, September 27, 2026

One Service 10:30am / Family Life Center

Covered Dish Luncheon to Follow

Concession Volunteers Needed

Northern High School
Friday, October 2 Football Game

2-hour shifts

(6pm - 8pm)
(8pm - 10pm)



Come serve the community and represent
our church

YOU'RE INVITED Fall Women's Bible Study

Looking to grow your faith and connect with a supportive community of women? Whether you are raising toddlers or launching college students, you belong here! Join us this fall for a welcoming, low-pressure space where moms find encouragement, shared prayer & spiritual growth.

What We Are Studying:

Life is full of decisions & we all want to know we are walking in the ways the Lord has commanded us. *Living a Purposeful Life* explores what Scripture says about truly knowing God's plans. You will learn to listen for His voice, trust His timing & embrace the great adventure of following Him.

Come join the adventure with us this fall!

When: 2nd & 4th Thursdays

Time: 10:00AM - 12:00PM

1st Meeting: Thursday, September 10th

MORE INFO or to RSVP CONTACT
CHRISTY SECRAW 336-907-1272 or

Oak Ridge Methodist Church
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



TARGET SHOOTING

Ladies, Take Your Best Shot!

sept 12th

Please register

9am-2pm

Music for Missions

EMPOWER GUATEMALA

STOVE & WATER FILTER MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

6:00PM

OAK RIDGE METHODIST CHURCH

Join us for an evening of music, food, and fellowship!

Enjoy a night filled with live music that will inspire your heart, along with a delicious dinner provided for all guests. Your presence helps us raise funds for life-changing stoves and water filters, making a real difference in Guatemalan communities.

Meal is provided at no charge. Includes baked potato bar with pulled pork

DONATE HERE



SCAN ME

RSVP REQUIRED



Make Checks payable to payable to Oak Ridge Methodist Church, memo "Guatemala Stoves", PO Box 538, Oak Ridge, NC 27310.



Our teams will fill our checked bags with donations for Guatemalans.

Donations should be new or lightly used.

Please bring donations!

- Reading glasses
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Children's books (in English)
- Women's clothes
- Children's clothes
- Men's clothes
- T-shirts (no alcohol or suggestive print)
- Bras (including breast feeding bras)
- Socks and underwear

Visit empowerguatemala.org for more information