

## Announcements

### New Members

Welcome New Members: Lloyd, John, and Sissy Lusk! The Lusk family joined the Orange Church family on February 12th. Please seek them out at church and welcome them.

### St. Patrick's Day

Please circle on your calendars, St. Patrick's Day Dinner on March 17th. More info to come.

### Dates to Remember in March & April

Ash Wednesday Service	March 1,7-7:30 pm
St. Patrick's Day Dinner	March 17
UMW Ladies Retreat	March 24
BLAST Lock-in	March 25
Palm Sunday	April 9
"Lord, Is It I?"	April 13,7 pm
Easter Egg Hunt	April 15, 7 pm
Easter	April 16
(Easter Sunrise Service)	April 16, 7 am
UMW Tea Party	April 17, 6:30 pm
Community Singing	April 30, 6 pm

### Setting Spiritual Goals

- I will do a daily devotional
- I will participate in a small group
- I will read my Bible daily
- I will bring someone new to church
- I will pray and surrender to the Holy Spirit
- I will give of my time to ministry and mission
- I will grow in my faith through Bible study
- I will be in worship weekly
- I will be generous in my giving
- I will share my faith with all that I meet

### New 5-8th Grade Group!

In September, a new younger-aged group began called BLAST! They will meet on Sunday mornings at 10 am in the basement of the church office and also on Monday nights (same place) from 6-7:30pm. On Sunday mornings, the group explores Bible stories, characters, truths, and spiritual disciplines. Monday nights include dinner, a scripture lesson, and lots and lots of FUN! Tell you friends about this group. It's already growing! BLAST Away!

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Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

Visit Us on the Web:  
www.orangeumc.org

# The Orange Branch

Orange United Methodist Church

1st Qtr. 2017

## New Year, New Dreams!

We have recently turned the calendar to a brand New Year, 2017. Let's take a few moments together and look to the past and to the future. In 2016, we saw some really encouraging momentum in some key areas of our church life. In addition to our usual, annual/seasonal programs (which were splendid), our children's ministry experienced great results in its Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Fling, Vacation Bible School, and Trunk-or-Treat activities. Thank you Bethany Goode and Jennifer Smithwick for putting together great volunteer teams for each of these events that really made each one shine! Then our new 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth ministry, BLAST, began with two students (Reece and Bailey, you know who you are!). Our leaders, Lynn Outlaw and Joanna Leifeld, challenged them to invite friends to grow their group. In less than two months, the high attendance at their Monday night gatherings (called BLAST) is 20...and it's STILL on the GROW! Reece and Bailey, you both get the 2016 Evangelists of the Year Award! God bless that group as it continues to grow in faith, discipleship, and friendship!

Still looking back, the Advent Season was truly a meaningful and memorable one. We had full houses in the sanctuary on December 4 for our Christmas Cantata (thank you choir AND drama team!) as well as December 11 for our Children's Christmas Program titled, "The Friendly Beasts." I've been serving churches almost 28 years now and I have never seen any of the Christmas "friendly beasts" any cuter or more precious! That group of 20 or so children sang their hearts out for us in church and gave us all the Christmas gift of a lifetime. Thank you Bethany, Joy, volunteers, children. Advent continued with Christmas Caroling on Sunday night, the 18<sup>th</sup>, and finished up with refreshments at the Smithwick house. Thank you Michael, Vince, Travis, Jennifer and everyone who came out to make that a special night to remember. Rounding out Advent were our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Christmas Day worship service. I don't remember, personally, a more special Advent, a more special Christmas Season, than the one we just had together at Orange UMC. To use Dickens' soft and endearing words, "May God bless us, everyone."

Now, let's go Back to the Future...2017! In November, we had a ministry planning day where our ministry teams came together and put down on paper some ministry dreams and designs for 2017. We will be doing some of our usual, annual things, but in addition to those, our ministry teams also have some exciting and new things in store for us as a church family! Be looking for a 2017 Calendar of Events to come out soon that will help you plan how YOU will be involved and be blessed to be a blessing for Jesus Christ through your church, Orange United Methodist Church in 2017. Have a good year! I look forward to living, laughing, loving, and serving with you in 2017!

Pastor, Mark

### Sunday Morning Schedule:

8:45 am Worship  
9:45 am Rise & Shine  
10:00 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship

Office Hours:  
Mon-Thur. - 9:30 am-5:30 pm  
770-886-9662

The Members of Orange UMC are its ministers. The staff who assist them in their work are:

- Dr. Mark Outlaw  
*Pastor*
- Anne Chandler  
*Administrative Assistant*
- Tailor Carder  
*Nursery*
- Bethany Goode  
*Children's Ministry*
- Joy Turner  
*Music Director*

- Brandon Goode  
*Church Council Chair*
- Paula Smith  
*Finance Committee Chair*
- Tom Kammerer  
*SPRC Chair*
- Ronnie Turner  
*Board of Trustees Chair*
- Ashley Starr  
*Lay Leader*
- Joyce Thigpen  
*Church Treasurer*

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2nd Qtr. 2017 Newsletter Deadline is: March 20, 2017

Email:  
orangeumc@orangeumc.org

**Children's Ministry**

Bethany Goode, Children's Ministry  
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 Phone: 678-807-8565



**The close of 2016** was full of fun for the kids at Orange! We were so excited to bring back the Fall Festival. Everyone enjoyed games, yummy food, a hayride, the pumpkin patch, & crafts. We ended the evening with trunk-or-treating. Many of our members got very creative with their car decorations. Our grounds were packed that night with children from all around our community. We look forward to this once again becoming an annual tradition at our church.

We kicked off the Christmas season with our first-ever Gingerbread House Night. Young and old alike showed off their creative sides while decorating their houses. We saw everything from 2-story houses to peppermint stacked chimneys. I think it's fair to say that adults had as much fun at this event as the kids!

I am always proud of our children at Orange, but I was especially proud of their performance of the Christmas play! Through song and drama, it reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas. All 20 children, who ranged in age from 3 to 12, practiced both Sunday mornings and evenings for many weeks leading up to the performance. Their hard work paid off with an awesome play, which they performed for a packed church!

Another event that we brought back last year was Breakfast with Santa. Our theme was "The North Pole", and our Fellowship Hall was transformed into a winter-wonderland! Families enjoyed delicious pancakes, eggs, & bacon. We were all super excited when Santa arrived at our church. He spent time getting to know each child and listening to their Christmas lists. Kids also got to make reindeer food and cute crafts.

As we end 2016, I am so grateful for the growth our Children's Ministry has experienced this year. This would not have been possible without all the wonderful volunteers that helped out at our events. Not only did we show our kids at Orange how special and loved they are, we also had the opportunity to show many outside of our doors God's awesome love. As we start off a new year, it is my prayer that we continue to reach the kids of our church and community, and that we show each and every one of them how special they are to God!

Love & blessings, *Bethany Goode*

**Music Ministry**

Joy Turner, Music Director  
 Email: joychoirdirector@bellsouth.net  
 Phone: 404-310-2152



**I want to** thank everyone who contributed in anyway! Many people said our Cantata was the best one ever. The music was beautiful and the new drama portion was a fabulous addition to the program. I want to thank Mary Cissell for her creative talent and contribution. She wrote and directed the drama.

The Children's Christmas Program was also the best ever! It was 20 kids strong! They sang like never before, and several soloists sang like "professionals." These singers will hopefully by our Adult Choir of the future!

As we look forward to the new Year, we have many new exciting things coming up. Our next Community Singing will be April 30th. It will be at 6 pm, and we will host this event. Please plan to attend and bring a side-dish or dessert to share at the meal served afterward.

I pray that 2017 will be a great year at Orange UMC. Come and be a part!

*Joy*

**Stewardship - 2017**

**As we look** back on 2016, we can recall changes, heartaches, losses of special members of our Church family and challenges we have faced together, but we can also remember the many special blessings God gave us during the year. We have seen our Children's program grow and our Youth program experience a revitalization -- both thanks to God and special dedicated people in our Church family. We have seen the Garden at the Cross -- with the special lighted Cross always as the focus -- expand with benches, new plantings, and walkways. Again with God's help and with your special gifts, we have seen a renovation of the Children's area and the creation of a new Youth area. We also have been able to celebrate and rejoice in new people joining us in worship on Sundays and at special events!

As we begin 2017, we know that we can do so trusting God to continue to be with us. He will be with us to face any challenges that may come our way, and He will be with our Church family as we work together to serve Him and do His will in our community. Let us together continue to support His work through our gifts and service this year.

On behalf of our Finance Committee, we thank you for all that you do in support of one another, Orange and the Church ministries. As a Church family, we want to continue to support the momentum that we see in the Children's program and Youth program. In addition, we know that we share the desire to be able to expand all of our other ministries including the Outreach ministry and Senior ministry in our community. With your continued prayers, service and financial support, great things can be accomplished with God's help and to His glory! Please continue to be in prayer and to give as you can as we travel together through 2017.

God Bless You Always, *Paula*

**2016 BUDGET UPDATE**

**2016 Budget: \$206,961.00**  
**Needed Monthly: \$ 17,247.00**

Budgeted Contributions		Designated Contributions	
Giving in January	\$16,497.00	Giving in January	\$10,741.00
Giving in February	\$13,411.00	Giving in February	\$ 260.00
Giving in March	\$16,345.72	Giving in March	\$ 1,598.01
Giving in April	\$12,832.80	Giving in April	\$ 883.00
Giving in May	\$16,897.30	Giving in May	\$ 2,067.54
Giving in June	\$14,147.28	Giving in June	\$ 1,511.00
Giving in July	\$15,255.00	Giving in July	\$ 635.03
Giving in August	\$12,658.33	Giving in August	\$ 9,295.00
Giving in September	\$10,536.00	Giving in September	\$ 2,860.00
Giving in October	\$17,683.25	Giving in October	\$ 3,870.00
Giving in November	\$16,441.00	Giving in November	\$ 6,220.00
Giving in December	\$14,758.00	Giving in December	\$ 3,468.00