FINANCIAL INFORMATION

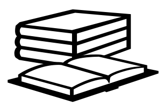
Beginning this year – the one in which you are currently living: tax year 2007 – if you want to claim monetary gifts to charities as a deduction – and this includes gifts to Oakton UMC – you will need cancelled checks, detailed receipts, or bank records (regardless of the amount). This includes the $5 bill you drop into the collection plate (or the Salvation Army kettle) – so if you want to add these cash contributions to your other deductions, use the envelopes in each pew, and write your name and the amount of your cash contribution on it. This will enable our treasurer to record your cash gifts and provide a receipt (meeting IRS requirements) to you at the end of the year. Until now, you only needed to obtain a written receipt acknowledging the cash gift if it was a cash contribution of $250 or more.

Rules for non-cash donations – whether books to the Book Nook or other donations – have also gotten more strict. Now you can only claim value for things designated in “good used condition or better” (the term “good” is not defined). However, an item worth more that $500 (for example, a good used automobile) as verified by a qualified appraisal included with your tax return can be deducted regardless of its condition.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006, enacted last August which controls the above two items, also does allow IRA owners of either traditional or Roth IRA’s who are age 70y to withdraw from their IRA account sums as large as $100,000 and have the IRA trustee or custodian give the withdrawn sums directly to a qualified charity – for example: Oakton United Methodist Church – without having to count the withdrawal as taxable income. However, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 disallows also additionally counting the gift as a charitable contribution. Before this law was enacted, the funds withdrawn would have been treated as a distribution to the IRA owner (for income tax purposes) before being donated to the church (or some other charity).
If you have questions concerning these items, please consult (on the web) irs.gov or your personal tax advisor.
$$

FROM THE BOOK NOOK

The Lord’s Book Nook is open every day and operates on a self-serve basis with instructions for use, displayed in the library. It is staffed by Frances Ellis on Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00. Check it out!!



March Birthdays

AT OAKTON UMC

March 1 Debby Rodriguez
1 Katie Budd
3 Pat Price
4 Grace Meade
7 Sylvia Hoertel
7 Megan McDonald
8 Mitchell Reiners
9 Olesya Ellis
10 Jolee Warrington
11 Eric Korn
12 Helen Furrow
12 Doris Johnson
13 Glen Warrington
14 Bill Van Satvoren
15 Susie Prentice
15 Thelma Grogan
15 Davis Baldwin
18 Ric Mansfield
19 Jane Wood
20 Dorothy Morrow
20 Sandy Butler
20 Anne Deegan
21 Ashton Rauch
23 Rev. Dr. John B. Tate, Jr.
23 Gary Fellows
26 Patrick Waters
27 Alex Saylor
28 Donna Galentine
29 Nancy Brouphy
30 Henry Sheard
31 Giles Sinkewiz

HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

Please Note: **The closet inside the paper goods storage area in the large social hall is reserved for use by the United Methodist Women. Please do not store left over decorations, plates, napkins, etc. from non-UMW related events in this closet. The coffee pots, punch bowls and other items have been donated to, or purchased by, the UMW and should not be removed without prior approval. If you have need to borrow an item stored in this closet for a non-UMW related event, please contact a UMW board member. (President) Frances Ellis: 703-476-1127 or (Secretary) Lois Hidalgo: 703-648-9135**

.

CRC Pen Pal News

In December, OUMC sent holiday greetings to all of its assigned pen pals, as well as individual Christmas cards to each CRC resident child. (Special thanks to the Susannah Circle for providing a number of cards and to Sandy Butler, who provided handmade cards from her students!) We also sent one CD of Shannon Wise and Erin Jones's lovely concert to each CRC "family," along with a Christmas card signed by a number of the church's members. Hopefully these gifts will be blessings to the CRC kids, and we will receive some responses in the month of January.

Several more pen pals from our church are needed. If you can commit to writing a letter once every 3-4 months, please contact me at KimSheard@aol.com or (703) 385-1880. Being a pen pal is a fun and easy way to support the CRC.