

OAK LAWN FIRST CHURCH OF NAZARENE

EASTER - THE CHRISTIAN CELEBRATION OF HOPE!

Too many people today know what hopelessness feels like. We are boxes in by circumstances beyond our control. We are frustrated by our own failures or the failure of others. Today's despair destroys our capacity to envision a better tomorrow. Jesus' disciples found themselves in similar circumstances. The crucifixion brought their hopes crashing down at the foot of a criminal's cross. Friday was a day of agony and Saturday, one of deep despair. But thanks be to God, Sunday was a new day! On that historic

Sunday, Hope rose with the Dawn! The angel, seated in the empty tomb announced to those who entered, "he has risen! He is not here!" Easter is God's day of hope for all of us. It reminds us that when Satan has done his worst, God can still do his best! The celebration of Easter is about renewing our hope in the resurrected Christ. Easter teaches us there are no problems so overwhelming, no despair so deep and no failure so final, that can destroy our hope in the risen Lord! Bill Gaither relates this truth in these words:

"Because He lives I can face tomorrow, because He lives all fear is gone, because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives! Let's share this message of Hope with others.

Invite someone you know to worship with us on Easter Sunday. They will hear a message of Hope. They will experience the very Presence of Hope. They will see Hope on the faces of people whom Hope has transformed and made new!

Pastor Gary

Upcoming Events

- **3/20 - Church Work Day**
- **3/20 - Ladies Night Out, 6 p.m.**
- **3/24 - Senior Adult Luncheon @ Les Brothers, 12 noon**
- **3/27 - Egg Hunt, 11 a.m.**
- **3/27 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 9 a.m.**
- **4/17 - ONU Ladies Day, 9 am - 3 pm**
- **4/23-4/25 - Spring Revival with Rick Stanley**

Uth Stph (Youth Stuff)

Congratulations to Melanie Holden for scoring a superior (90) for her vocal solo at District Celebrate Life on February 26th. Her superior score allows her to sing at regional Celebrate Life held at Olivet Nazarene University in May. Melanie keep practicing and when the going gets tough, just let Jesus Take the Wheel! A special shout out to Ashley

Quinlan and Shelby Grindle for doing their best at volleyball.

Our next big youth event is on March 19 and 20. We will be attending Dare 2 Share's BLAZE Conference at the Sears Centre Arena in Hoffman Estates. Greg Stier, Zane Black, and musical guests Starfield, DJ Promote, and Propaganda will help ignite our teens passion

for sharing Jesus with their friends at school.

In our Youth meetings on Sunday evenings we are going through Dare 2 Share's video series The Gospel Journey.

Greg Stier takes 7 youth on a wilderness adventure in the Rocky Mountains and teaches them the gospel along the way. The group is comprised of an atheist,

kid, a Wiccan, a city girl, an Episcopalian, and a Presbyterian. It is filmed in a reality show format and we get to hear answers to teen's questions about Christianity as well as their objections. The BLAZE Conference will really top off all we are learning. Please PRAY for our youth at this conference.

FRIEND DAYS 2010 - April 23-25



“What do you do when your hero goes down before you do?”

Rick commenting on Elvis' death



Who is Rick Stanley?
Rick Stanley was born December 13, 1953 in Huntsville, Alabama. His father, Bill Stanley, was a career military man in the army. While stationed in Germany, Rick's mother, Dee, realized she could not stop her husband's alcoholic abuse.

She met Vernon Presley, father of Elvis Presley and fell in love. Rick and his brothers were brought back to the United States while his father was out on military maneuvers. He had no idea what was taking place within his own home.

Rick spent the next year of his life in a foster home called Breezy Point Farms outside Newport News, Virginia. After obtaining a divorce from Bill Stanley, Dee married Vernon Presley July 3, 1960. Several months later Rick and his brothers were picked up by his mother and new step-father and moved into Graceland, Elvis Presley's home in Memphis, Tennessee.

Elvis showered all the Stanley boys with love and affection. Rick was drawn to Elvis from their first meeting. When Rick was 16, he quit school and started traveling

with Elvis. He became Elvis' personal aide. There was nobody closer to Elvis from 1969 to 1977.

Rick went through the same struggles with addiction (prescription drugs) as Elvis. Elvis personally came to the Memphis Police Department and got Rick out of jail on August 7, 1975 for a narcotics arrest. Rick was with Elvis 8 hours before his death August 16, 1977.

Two months after Elvis' death, Rick gave his life to Christ. He married Robyn, the girl who witnessed to him. Rick then attended Criswell College through a scholarship provided by Dr. W.A. Criswell after Dr. Freddie Gage introduced Rick to Dr. Criswell. Rick later attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas and graduated in May of 1986. Rick served as staff evangelist at First Baptist Church of Dallas.

Rick has been married for over 31 years to Robyn, and they have 2 daughters, Brittany and Bethany.

Since July 3, 1978, he has spoken in over 4000 churches, 1000 middle

and high schools, and hundreds of drug rehab centers and correctional facilities.

His television appearances include Good Morning America, 20/20, Geraldo, Live with Regis and Kathie Lee, Mike Huckabee, Sally Jesse Raphael, Current Affair, E-True Hollywood Story, Fox's On the Record with Greta Van Susteren, Fox Family Channel's Famous Families - The Presley's, Inside Edition, Tom Snyder and 5 appearances on Larry King Live. Rick has been interviewed for hundreds of local newspapers and an 8 page article in People Magazine, and has authored 3 books.

Rick will be sharing his story at Oak Lawn First on Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25. He will also be at a special banquet at the church on Friday, April 23. This will be ticketed catered event at which Rick will answer your questions about his life with Elvis. More information will follow concerning the details of the banquet. Don't miss these exciting meetings and most important of all, pray for them and for the people you will be

Oak Lawn Day Nursery

Several months ago one of our Preschoolers commented, "There has been too much snow, but spring is coming and then we can play on the playground, well, after the puddles go away." That's what I like about Preschoolers. They can see beyond the rain, the storms, and the puddles and look ahead to the important things in life like play time, birthday parties, and fun times with mom and dad. This year, we at OLDN are buying in to that philosophy: Spring is coming and whatever is happening today will soon be history.

With this in mind, we are excited about what God has for the OLDN family.

First of all, I want to remind everyone of Preschool and Kindergarten graduation which will be on OLDN Sunday, June 13, 2010. Bring your family and friends and get ready to be entertained by the children.

Secondly, I want to invite those of you who do not have a home church to visit our services on Sunday morning. We have a great time of worship and celebration, and we always leave the service having learned something new about God and

His will for our lives. In addition, it is my desire that every family will find hope and love at OLDN through our ministries of prayer and compassion. If you know of someone who needs prayer, please speak with us and we will put the prayer request on our prayer lines or even have someone pray with you if you want.

Again, we thank God for every child, every family, and every teacher and staff member. The volunteers who maintain our building and help us with our budgets are invaluable. Yes, we

Oak Lawn Day Nursery
Early Childhood Academy



CARAVAN

What a great job your children are doing at Caravan! We will be having our next award ceremony following all spring breaks. I'll send a letter home stating the exact date. Please have your children wear their neckerchiefs or sashes (and formal uniform if they have one). Parents, grandparents, and friends are all invited.

It also looks as if our final meeting and award ceremony will be held on Monday, May 31. We are kicking around the idea of having a banquet at which your children cook, serve, and clean up. This will help them fulfill some badge requirements.

As the weather gets warmer, we will be

planning an overnight camping trip. This is open to the Caravaners and their parents (if you would like to come and assist). This will also meet some badge requirements for the kids. You will hear more about this as we firm up the details.

As always, thank you for letting your children



6343 West 90th Place
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Phone: 708-599-5559
Fax: 708-599-1675

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
OAKLAWNFIRST.ORG

At Oak Lawn First. . . .

We believe in one God-the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Old and New Testament Scriptures, given by plenary inspiration, contain all truth necessary to faith and Christian living.

We believe that man is born with a fallen nature, and is, therefore, inclined to evil, and that continually.

We believe that the finally impenitent are hopelessly and eternally lost.

We believe that the atonement through Jesus Christ is for the whole human race; and that whosoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin.

We believe that believers are to be sanctified wholly, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the Lord in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe that the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth, and also to the entire sanctification of believers.

We believe that our Lord will return, the dead will be raised, and the final judgment will take place.