

Oak Level Baptist Church

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Volume 37

SHARING THE JOURNEY

April/May 2014

Getting the Most out of Worship and Making It Personal

I'm sure this has never happened to you, but just in case you know someone else who has struggled with getting the most out of a Sunday morning worship experience, I thought it might be wise to share these thoughts for the other person's benefit.

What was the intent and main points of the sermon you heard two weeks ago? How did it minister to you personally, and what changes, insights, or growth came about as a result of that message?

Many folks will sit through a Sunday morning worship hour having never been personally involved in the experience. This is hardly what God desires, and it leaves many feeling empty and asking themselves more than once during the hour, "*how much longer?*" This sense of emptiness and mundane ritual is almost fully our own fault, because we do practically nothing to prepare ourselves for worship beforehand, take a passive role during the course of the worship hour, and exit with no plan or even intention of applying truth gained to real life situations in the days to come. We are freewheeling or coasting through what should be one of the most helpful spiritual exercises of our lives.

1. Pray for the hearers. Before Sunday ever arrives, ask God to prepare your own heart to receive and act upon the upcoming message. Do this with a humble awareness that you are not spiritually complete, and there are many rough edges that need to be chipped away. Beware of the nagging urge to pull splinters out of other people's eyes while the log is in yours. Ask that individuals will be responsive to the Spirit's urging to be present and equally anxious to experience God when the Word is preached.

2. Pray for the messenger in very specific ways. Ask God to enable him to arrange his schedule and set priorities in such a way that he has sufficient time and focus to develop a sermon or study particularly suited to the needs of the body. Pray for clarity of thought and a holy sense of his high privilege to stand before God's people to offer spiritual nourishment. Pray that the message is another of those divine encounters where it fits perfectly with the needy voids of attending listeners. Remember to pray for certain individuals who have yet to commit to following Christ full-time.

3. During the worship time take notes, and especially mark those points to be personally considered. Filling in outlines is a start, but maintaining a study notebook is far better. Flesh out the message in your own handwriting, and always keep the notebook with your Bible. When the Spirit moves you in a notable way, don't forget to include comments or insights gained from music, prayers, and testimonies.

4. Review the notes during the week and incorporate them into your own personal or family time with God. Use key passages for daily meditation or memorization. Explore parallel or related topics and verses. By doing this throughout the week you will not soon forget what the message was about and how it involves you personally.

5. Seek further knowledge of what you are not clear on. It is normal to not understand everything and beneficial to admit it. Some questions can be answered with a little study on your own. Other questions may need the help of the messenger, if possible. Find out what he intended to say and the biblical basis for the instruction. Many times our questions or confusion come about because of a misunderstanding or lapse in our attention span. Then there are those extra special questions that have no answer this side of heaven. Mark those as "*to be answered later.*"

6. Share some truth you learned with someone else. God does not teach us and grow us so that we become spiritually-fat couch potatoes. Exercise the knowledge and faith you acquire by sharing with others. Some of this will be through relationships with those closest to us. We help guide someone else as we pass on a word of knowledge or experience gained. If we will be attentive throughout the day we will even recognize when God prepares us for a divine appointment even through casual relationships.

7. Consider being part of a worship hour prayer team that prays for the messenger and listeners during the entire service. This requires the pastor's support, of course, and should be done as behind-the-scenes as possible. Avoid calling attention to this ministry and the prayer warriors. In fact, make it one of the best kept secrets of the church. Unholy things happen when pride and ego get in the way.

If this looks too much like work, then it may be that you have been coasting for too long already. Make a commitment today that your Sundays will not be idle times of relaxation and entertainment like a spectator sport. Determine that you will no longer be a passive pew sitter but an active worship partner.

Rev. Steve Manuel

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Apr. 3 Shirley Draper
April Draper
Apr. 5 April Gammons
Apr. 7 Meaghan Poore
Apr. 08 Christopher Howell
Apr. 10 Mary Hodges
Deborah Thomas
Apr. 11 Brittany Rodgers
Apr. 15 Alexandra Gill
Apr. 16 Bob Clark
Kim C. Dickerson
Joseph Pierce
Jonathan Pierce
Sherry Y. Stone
Melissa Thompson
Jacki Tuttle
Apr. 17 Dana Young
Apr. 20 April M. Haulsey
Virginia Metz
Apr. 22 Wilbern Meeks
Apr. 26 Carroll Draper
Apr. 28 Caroline Snead
Apr. 29 Bruce Thompson
Apr. 30 John Wilson

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 5 Audie Atkins
Mearl Boswell
Debra Brown
May 08 Mearl Boswell
May 12 Carolyn Seay
David Hurd, Jr.
May 13 Barbara C. Flora
May 14 Michael Snead
Hazel Harrison
Norman Young
Nancy Felter
May 15 Erma McKee
Kasey Viars
May 18 Patricia Handy
Teresa D. Seay
May 19 Regina Atkins
May 22 Allison Snead
Jane R. Arrington
May 23 Logan Coleman
May 24 Marie Anderson
Jeanette Crum
May 25 Tyler Tilley
May 30 May Seay
Whitni Wright

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Blue Ridge Nursing Ctr.
P.O Box 459, Stuart, VA 24171
Viola Turner Thelma Love

Fork Mountain Rest Home.
2925 Fork Mtn. Rd. Rocky Mt, 24151
*Dianne Chitwood *Lillian Forbes
Arleen Harris *Pauline Martin
Angela Mason Hazel Sizemore
*Wanda Stone

Friendship Retirement Community
327 Hersberger Rd. NW, Roanoke, VA 24102
Albert Meeks

Golden Living Center.
1607 Spruce St. Martinsville, VA, 24112
*Glen Young

Hanson Home
162 Krontz Dr. Bassett, VA 24055
*Betty Sue Sparks

Harmony Hall
P.O. Box 1614, Bassett, VA 24055
Louise Turner Betty Pagans

Stanleytown Health Care Ctr.
240 Riverside Drive, Bassett, VA 24055
Blandean Akers - 9 Grace Mullins - 12
Lillian LaPrade

The Laurel, 72 Chatham Business Park Dr.
Pittsboro, NC 27312
*Lovelene S. Lewis



COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEAL

Oak Level Baptist Church will host a **Community Outreach Meal** on the last Saturday of each Month from 1:00 -2:00 p.m. This is a **FREE** meal especially for those in our community who may not have regular access to a hot meal. We'll start eating at 1:00pm and should be finished up by 2:00pm. We look forward to an enjoyable time together!

If anyone needs or knows of anyone in our area that would need transportation, please let a Deacon know or call the Church Office at 276-629-7973.

GRACE NETWORK

During the month of April, the Feinstein Foundation will match funds donated to the Grace Network. If you would like to give a monetary gift to them, please phone them at 276-638-8500 for more information.

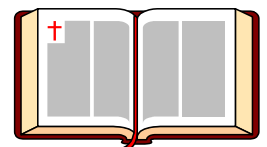
CHURCH E-MAIL LIST

If you are not on our E-Mail list, please e-mail a quick note to the church and we will add your name to our list



IN MEMORY

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FUND</u>
Robert E. Pettit, Jr.	General Funds



**HAVE YOU READ
YOUR BIBLE TODAY?**

WITH SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy extended to Arthur and Betty Jo Foley and their family and friends, on the death of Betty Jo's cousin, Roger Gray Gibbs, who passed away Tuesday, February 4, 2014.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Dr. John P. Bing, MD, who passed away Monday, March 10, 2014.

Christian sympathy extended to Louise Vipperman and her family and friends on the death of Louise's daughter-in-law, Gwen Boone, who passed away on Tuesday, March 18, 2014.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Mattie Robertson, who passed away Saturday, March 22, 2014.

THANK YOU

We at the Fork Mountain Rest Home would like to thank you very much for coming and sharing with us in song as well as all your hugs and smiles during our Christmas Season. Fork Mountain Rest Home

Oak Level Baptist Church would like to thank everyone who supplied food, helped with the serving, and provided transportation to our Community Outreach Meal.

Oak Level Baptist Church would like to say "Thank You" to Jesse Cannaday and Elmer Stone for working so hard all day repairing the Circuit Breaker Box in the Church Basement. We appreciate them for their hard work.

I would like to thank everyone for the Valentine Cards and Birthday Cards that I received. They made me so happy and I appreciate every one of them. Wanda Stone

Oak Level Baptist Church would like to thank Garry Barrow for taking the Church Van to have the turning signal replaced. We are very thankful for the people in our church who give their time to keep our church property in good repair.



DATES & TIMES FOR YOUTH MEETINGS, PROJECTS & FUNDRAISERS

APRIL MEETINGS

April 13 (Palm Sunday) - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 27 - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

MAY MEETINGS

May 13 - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

May 27 - 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.



PLANNED YOUTH ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

NEW VISION BAPTIST CHURCH

Youth & Children singing 12:30 p.m.

Route 608, Rocky Mount, VA



SUNDAY, APRIL 13 - EASTER SUNDAY

YOUTH EASTER PROGRAM - 11:00 AM

SATURDAY, APRIL 15 - HERITAGE DAY

Youth & Children Fishing Trip at Waid Park,

Rocky Mt. VA - Picnic Lunch Provided

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, EASTER EGG HUNT

OAK LEVEL BAPTIST CHURCH

10:00 am - 12 NOON



SATURDAY, MAY 3

YOUTH BAR-B-Q FUNDRAISER

Menu - Bar-B-Q, Baked Beans,
Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Drinks, Desserts

4:00 - 7:30 p.m. - COST - \$8.00

In Church Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, MAY 11 - MOTHER'S DAY

"SHOPPING FOR MOMS"

Items are needed that would be appropriate for our youth to give their moms for Mother's Day.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

YOUTH TRIP TO NATURAL BRIDGE ZOO

7:00 A.M. - UNTIL



Give to the
CBF *Offering for*
GLOBAL MISSIONS

2014 Goal: \$4,000.00
YTD: \$1,321.00

100 percent of your gift to CBF Offering For Global Missions will help people hear and experience the gospel of Jesus Christ.

APRIL & MAY
WMU MEETINGS

Tuesday - April 22 - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday - May 27 - 7:00 p.m.

If you are looking to become more involved with missions that help people here and throughout the world, you should consider attending our WMU Meetings. We have such a fun time of Fellowship and working with mission projects. Everyone is welcome to come and be a part of Oak Level Baptist Church WMU.

Mom & Me 2014

April 25-26 or April 26-27, 2014

Mom & Me is a fun-filled missions focused event for 1st-6th grade girls and their moms to spend quality time together as they participate in activities that include: a visit with a missionary, music, dance, worship, crafts, a hands-on mission project and more! Please contact Donna Winebarger or call the church office for more information.

For any information on any of these events please see Donna Winebarger or a WMU member.

Soles4Souls



Please join us in this special mission project in partnership with *Soles4Souls* to collect and distribute shoes to persons in need and microfinance organizations around the world. There is a large trashcan for dropping your new and/or used shoes through the shoe prints located in the church foyer. All shoes are due by May 1.



ACTEENS WEEKENDER
APRIL 11-13

Acteens is a missions organization for girls ages 12-17 or in grades 7-12. Through Acteens, teenage girls have opportunities to grow in their relationships with God and their peers. Acteens learn to look beyond themselves and become actively involved in missions and ministry.

WMU Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2014
Chatham Heights Baptist Church
Pre-Service Music, 6:14 pm
Program Begins, 6:30 pm
Guest Speaker: Peggy Moran



SUMMER CAMP

Don't forget to sign up for Summer Camp at CrossRoads. Contact Missy Thompson for dates and information.

April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Men's Breakfast 7:30 am  PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	3	4	5 HERITAGE DAY Youth Fishing Trip (Waid Park)
6 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am  Communion	7	8 WMU Annual Meeting (Chatham Hgts. Baptist) 6:00 p.m. Deacon's Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	10	11	12 Youth Singing at New Vision Baptist 12:30 p.m.
13 PALM SUNDAY Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am (YOUTH EASTER PROGRAM) Youth Mtg. – 5:00 p.m. 	14	15	16 Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.	17	18  Good Friday	19 Egg Hunt 10:00 p.m. 
20 Easter Sunday Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Youth Mtg. – 5:00 p.m.	21	22 WMU Meeting 7:00 p.m.	23 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	24 Senior Adults Mtg – 12:00 noon (Orchard Drive Baptist) VBS Clinic 6:00 p.m. (First Baptist Collinsville)	25	26 FREE COMMUNITY MEAL 1:00 P.M. Church Fellowship Hall 
27 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Youth Mtg. – 5:00 p.m.   Pennies for the Precious	28	29	30 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.			

May 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Youth Fundraiser BBQ Dinner 4-7:30 p.m.
4 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	5	6 Deacon's Meeting 7:00 p.m.	7 Men's Breakfast 7:30 am  PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	8	9	10
11 Sunday School – 9:45 am (Children shop for Mothers) Worship Service – 11:00 am Mother's Day	12	13	14 Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.	15	16	17 Youth Trip to Natural Bridge Zoo 7:30 a.m.
18 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	19	20	21 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	22	23	24
25 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am  Pennies for the Precious Youth Mtg. 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. 	26  Memorial Day	27 WMU Meeting 7:00 p.m.	28 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	29	30	31