

# Oak Level Baptist Church

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“SHARING THE JOURNEY”

August/September 2011

## An Encounter with God Is to Choose the Best Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

One of the principles from Henry Blackaby's "**Experiencing God**" is that when God takes the initiative to speak to us, this becomes an encounter with God. Our priority is to maintain a personal encounter with the Lord and help others have a similar encounter. The encounter with God is always the focus or primary task. Activities, programs, worship, Christian service and all ministry follow as a result of the encounter that we have with God. The emphasis is on the personal and real relationship with God and not on surrounding circumstances or events.

In the Luke account it is very likely that Martha is the older of the two sisters. Luke mentions her first, and it is she who admits or receives Jesus into the house. The Greek word used here for "opened" or "received" carries the idea of entertaining or being hospitable. It is the same term used in Luke 19:6 when Zaccheus excitedly comes down from the tree in order to "receive Jesus into his house." In Acts 17 the authorities condemn Jason after he had "received" the Christians into his home. The last instance of the term in the New Testament is found in James 2 where he spoke of Rahab as one who "received" the Hebrew spies into her home.

Although it is Martha who receives Jesus into the house, it is Mary who takes time to sit at the feet of Jesus to hear His words. Martha is present, but very busy with other things around the house, which in her opinion, are more important.

While Mary sat down and listened, Martha burdened or distracted herself with all of the meal preparations. In this particular instance her preoccupation is not healthy, because not only does she miss out on what the Lord is saying, but she allows a root of bitterness to begin to grow within. She begins to resent her sister Mary and perhaps even the Lord Himself.

Martha draws close to the Lord, and like many of us often do, she tries to win Him over to her side. "Doesn't it bother you that my sister has left me to do all of the work? Don't you think Mary is being unfair? Why don't you say something to my sister for being so lazy and tell her (command her) to get up and help me?"

The Lord's response was not exactly what Martha was waiting to hear. Jesus is tender with her, but He didn't praise her for her much busy service. Jesus admonishes her. Martha had been anxious and worried about little things. Jesus recognizes her condition and the impending disaster, because He saw that she was greatly troubled. Martha, in her efforts at being the perfect hostess, has succeeded only to hurt the very relationship she was trying so hard to develop.

There's nothing wrong with being a good host or hostess and wanting to do good works, but in many cases, just like Martha, we choose the good thing instead of the best.

Only one thing should capture our focus and attention. Our singular task should be to go after the very best. If our busyness interferes with our relationship with Christ, then we should hear Jesus speaking to us just as He spoke to Martha.

In this meeting only one thing was necessary. The two women should have given their undivided attention to what Jesus had to say. Mary chose "what was better," or in this case, what was best. She sat at Jesus' feet to hear Him speak and teach. Martha chose to busy herself about the task of entertaining her guest, but in so doing she lost the benefit and fruit of their time together. She chose to not take part in the best the day had to offer.

In just a short time the fellowship would be over, the invited guest would leave, and Martha would only remember the much busy work that she had to do as she tried to entertain everyone. She would remember preparing the meal, setting the table, and cleaning up. In contrast, Mary would have eternal and joyful memories of the words that the Lord Jesus spoke to her face to face on that special day, and no one would ever be able to take that away from her.

How does this passage speak to us? Are we busy, even distracted or cumbered with life's many cares, or are we seated at the feet of Jesus hanging on every word that comes from His lips? Is ours an encounter with the Lord or are we always struggling and on the verge of almost having an encounter or trying to get ready for an encounter with God? We must always place our eyes on the singular important task at hand, that which is most necessary, and that can never be taken away. We are to choose the best part and live in the joyful midst of the real encounter with God.

Some generations ago Charles Spurgeon noted, *"Martha's spirit is predominant in the church of God to a considerable extent now...All regenerated persons ought to be workers for God and with God, but let the working never swamp the believing, never let the servant be more prominent than the son...."*

*"To labor for Christ is a pleasant thing, but beware of doing it mechanically; and this you can only prevent by diligently cultivating personal communion with Christ. My brother, it may be you will undertake so much service that your time will be occupied, and you will have no space for prayer and reading the word...."*

*"To gather up all in one, I fear there is a great deal among us of religious activity of a very inferior sort; it concerns itself with the external of service, it worries itself with merely human efforts, and it attempts in its own strength to achieve divine results. The real working which God will accept is that which goes hand in hand with a patient waiting upon Christ...."*

*"Do not, I pray you, neglect the spiritual for the sake of the external, or else you will be throwing away gold to gather to yourself iron, you will be pulling down the palaces of marble that you may build for yourselves hovels of clay."*

*"Activity, if not balanced by devotion, tends to puff us up, and so to prevent acceptance with God."*

*"Mary's estimate of Christ was of a truer order; she looked at him as a priest, she viewed him as a prophet, she adored him as a king, and she had heard him speak about dying, and had listened to his testimony about suffering, and dimly guessing what it meant, she prepared the precious spikenard that ere the dying should come she might anoint him....she anoints him, and is honored in the deed."*

**August Birthdays**

- Aug. 1 Ken Meeks
- Aug. 2 James I. Seay, Jr.
- Aug. 4 Victoria Lynn Chaney
- Aug. 08 Matthew Thompson
- Aug. 10 Mike Forbes
- Aug. 14 Joan Frith
- Aug. 16 Dwayne Wright
- Aug. 17 Sarah Surratt
- Aug. 19 Michelin Hall  
Wills Kitchen  
Joshua Rodgers  
Louise Webb  
Morgan Branscome
- Aug. 20 Betty Mae Young
- Aug. 22 Andy Webb
- Aug. 23 Mary Stegall
- Aug. 24 Wayne Miles
- Aug. 26 Austin Boggs
- Aug. 27 Gracie France Roberson  
Brandon Barnes  
Michael McMillan  
Thelma Nolen
- Aug. 28 Allison Seay  
Clyde Cahill
- Aug. 29 Darnell Boyd
- Aug. 31 Ersie Hurd

**September Birthdays**

- Sept. 04 Vicki Lumpkin  
Elmer Stone
- Sept. 05 Esther Hanks
- Sept. 06 Maury Miles, Jr.  
Edna Seay  
Shirley Spencer
- Sept. 07 Brien Dyer  
Kayla Prichard
- Sept. 08 Ken Turner
- Sept. 09 Wesley Wells  
Justin Peak  
Abby Tilley
- Sept. 11 Kaylee Pettit
- Sept. 14 Jim McMillian
- Sept. 15 Steve Manuel
- Sept. 16 Dennis Ferguson
- Sept. 18 Angela Peters  
Joe Spencer
- Sept. 19 Jayne Trull
- Sept. 20 Bobby Dyer  
Carol Dyer
- Sept. 21 Jason Plogger
- Sept. 22 Nicholas Martin
- Sept. 24 Ashley K. Stanley
- Sept. 26 Cecil Stone  
Miranda Bousman
- Sept. 30 Amber Foley

**REHAB & REST HOME RESIDENTS**

**Blue Ridge Manor.,**  
**P.O. Box 4904, Martinsville, VA 24112**  
Alice Martin - Room 205

**Blue Ridge Rehab,**  
**P.O. Box 4904, Martinsville, VA 24112**  
\*Glen Young - Room 216

**Blue Ridge Nursing Ctr,**  
**P.O. Box 459, Stuart, VA 24171**  
Lonnie West - Room 105

**Fork Mountain Rest Home,**  
**2925 Fork Mtn. Rd. Rocky Mt, 24151**  
Golden Stone            Howard Hodges  
Hazel Sizemore        \*Lillian Forbes  
Pauline Martin        Angela Mason

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

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

**Stanleytown Health Care**  
**P.O. Box 538, Stanleytown, VA 24168**  
\*Charlie Ramsey    Janie Keys  
\*Mattie Robertson   Creed King

**Trinity Mission Health & Rehab,**  
**300 Hatcher St. Rocky Mt. VA 24151**  
Ruby Weaver            Ida Turner



**IN MEMORY**

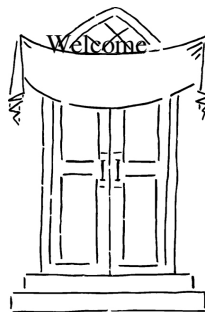
<u>Fund</u>	<u>Name</u>
General Funds	John Metz



**Sanctuary FLOWERS**

Flowers placed in the Church Sanctuary on Father's Day, June 19, 2011, are in loving honor of **Arnold L. Hanks** and are given by his daughters, Esther and Marilyn Hanks, granddaughter, Shana Kahila, and great-grandson, Jacob. The flowers are also given in loving honor of **Lonnie R. West** and are given by his sons, Elwood E. West & Hal Dee West and by his daughter, Sue Young.

Flowers placed in the Church Sanctuary on May 29, 2011 for Memorial Day are given by Esther Hanks in loving memory of her uncle, J. C. Fields, a Korean War veteran. Also, in memory and honor of all veterans who have served our country. Thank you and God bless you all.



**Welcome to our Interim Pastor!**

We want to welcome Rev. Steve Manuel as the new Interim Pastor at Oak Level Baptist Church. Steve and his wife Barbara live in

Vinton, VA and have 2 grown sons, Jason & Jeremy.

Anyone that would like to meet with Steve, please call the Church Office at 629-7973 to get his work schedule.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Lisa and Brian Ackerman on the birth of their son, Colton James Ackerman. He was born on July 2, 2011, weighed 7 lbs. 2 ounces and was 20.1/2 inches long. He is the grandson of Drake and Donna Winebarger and Wayne & Teresa Slate. He is the great-grandson of Elmer and Ann Stone.



Congratulations to Chuck and Kyrie Labounty on the birth of their son, David Chad, who was born on Thursday, June 2, 2011 and weighed 8 lbs, 4 oz. He is the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. David Turner and the great-grandson of Betty Turner.



Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Eva Estell Vaughn Heckman who passed away Saturday, May 21, 2011.

Christian sympathy extended to Kermeen Robertson and her family and friends on the death of her mother, Neva Cooper, who passed away Saturday, May 21, 2011.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Robert (Bobby) L. Vernon, Jr., who passed away Sunday, May 29, 2011.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Violet Coleman Anderson, who passed away, Tuesday, May 31, 2011.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Alma Coleman Young, who passed away Wednesday, June 8, 2011.

Christian sympathy extended to Jerry & Norveline Atkins and their family and friends on the death of Norveline's mother, Hattie Webb Smith, who passed away Saturday, June 25, 2011.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Ida Prillaman Turner, who passed away Tuesday, June 28, 2011.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Frances Powell Hutchinson, who passed away Wednesday, June 30, 2011.

Christian sympathy extended to Rev. Doug & Sandra Ramsey and their family and friends on the death of Sandra's mother, Esther May Franklin Richardson, who passed away Saturday, July 03, 2011.

Christian sympathy extended to Alexis Donovan and her family and friends on the death of her grandmother, Stella Elizabeth Dillon Prater, who passed away Saturday, July 9, 2011.

## THANK YOU

Thank everyone for all the "presents" that were donated for Father's Day. The children and youth had a great time picking out presents to give their fathers.

Peggy Morris & Shirley Young

Oak Level Baptist Church wants to thank everyone for all the food brought and all the work that was done for Log Sunday. Everyone had a wonderful time and it was a great day of Christian love and fellowship.



## **2011 CAMP CROSSROADS THANK YOU LETTERS**

Thank you, so much for sending me to camp this year. I had so much fun with all the activities we did. Fishing was amazing, even though I only caught one fish in three days. I made many decisions this year at camp about God and it truly changed my thinking. I enjoyed every minute of camp. Thank you so much again! Holly Thompson

Thank you, Oak Level Baptist Church for allowing us to have the privilege to go to Camp CrossRoads. I enjoyed every bit of it. From the new friends I made to the games we played. I learned a lot by going there. It helped me understand more about God. It also brought me closer to God, but what make me feel welcome the most was the counselors. I've become friends with them and they actually talk to you and if you ever have any trouble, they are there to help and they're lots of fun to be around. This was my first year going, but it won't be my last. It was way to much fun not to return. Jordan Gilley

Thank you for letting me go to camp. I had a wonderful time. I enjoyed everything I go to do there, but I have to say my favorite part was the one mile hike to the rock. From there the camp looked like an ant hill. It was awesome! I'm looking forward to going back next year! Megan Thompson

Thank you so much for sending me to Camp CrossRoads, yet again. It was my best week out of all four years that I have went. I made so many good friends and I hope to go again next year. Rosa Stone

I had a great time at camp. Thank you for sending us. I had a whole lot of fun. Christopher Howell

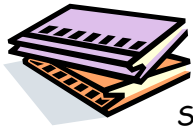
Thank you for letting us go to Camp CrossRoads. It was a lot of fun and I hope to go next year. My favorite part was the Vespers. It was a lot of fun. Thank you again. Cierra Underwood





## SPECIAL WMUV SPEAKER

Ann Brown, President of WMUV Board of Trustees, will be our guest speaker on Sunday, September 11th. She will bring the morning message and share with us about WMU of India and her trips there. We are planning lunch for everyone after the Worship Service. Please watch for details and plan to join us and meet Ann Brown.



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED



School Supplies are already in the stores! The WMU will once again collect supplies to share with **Henry Elementary and Campbell Court Schools**. You can place these items in the WMU Basket located in the Church Foyer. Please have items at the Church by August 23, 2011.

If you include school supplies in the **Samaritans Purse Shoe Boxes**, now is a good time to stock up on those items!



## GRACE NETWORK

Include these items on your shopping list when you go to the Grocery Store. Bring them to the church and we will take them to Grace Network. **Food Items for August & September are Juice - (32 oz. 64 oz.) Deodorant - Toilet Paper - Toothpaste - Oatmeal.**



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



You can get a head start with your Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes with the following gift ideas.

**Toys:** small cars, dolls yo-yos, jump rope, etc.

**School supplies:** pens pencils and sharpeners, ink pad sets, writing pads, paper, solar calculators, coloring books.

**Hygiene Items:** toothbrush, toothpaste, bar soap, comb, brush, wash cloths.

**Other:** hard candy, mints, gum, T-shirt, socks, ball caps, sunglasses hair clips, watches, flashlights w/batteries.

You can include a note to the child.

# Engage

## ALMA HUNT OFFERING FOR VIRGINIA MISSIONS

*offering goal*  
**\$1,167,500**  
*week of emphasis*  
**september 11-18, 2011**

*It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life... [so] use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows." - Galatians 5:13 (The Message)*

## OAK LEVEL BAPTIST CHURCH GOAL \$1,000.00.



The annual offering for Virginia missions was named for Alma Hunt (1909-2008), a native Virginian who was known worldwide for her missions service and her unswerving dedication to the cause of Christ. Churches and

individuals may contribute at any time. This offering provides funding for all WMUV missions and ministries and makes possible other special ministries, outreach projects, and initiatives not funded through regular streams of giving (but uniquely connected to Virginia Baptists). The offering goal for When you give to the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions, you are equipping those who seek to share with others how God has set them free to live and serve.

Give to the  
CBF Offering for  
GLOBAL MISSIONS

**OLBC Annual Goal - \$3,000.00**

**Total to date - \$2,117.00**

**Next WMU Meeting: August 23, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Program: Sue Young**

**Prayer Calendar: Betty Jo Foley**