

Oak Level Baptist Church

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“SHARING THE JOURNEY”

Volume 36

December/January 2013/2014

God's Messengers

As the Christmas season gets under way with the myriad of ads and promos trying to sell us billions of dollars worth of stuff we don't need, we also hear the warnings of how lives are stressed and stretched to the breaking point as folks fight to make deadlines and complete all their frantic shopping and preparations before the big day. There will be angry buyers screaming at others who get in their way; many store employees will not have a merry twinkle in their eyes as they attend to unhappy shoppers; and even our children will be growling in hopes of convincing some listening ear to get them that one perfect gift that they believe will satisfy them forever, or at least until the garbage trucks arrive to carry off the boxes and wrapping paper that will serve as a sign that another year full of burdens and pressure is about to begin.

By transforming a holy day into a glitzy, blinding, and dizzying free-for-all, we have all but silenced the joyful message of peace and love announced by God's faithful messengers centuries ago. There are those who will not even mention the name of Christ during the season. To them these hectic weeks are nothing more than a winter break from school and work or a buying circus meant to boost the economy. It is for parties, eating, drinking, and indulgence of every sort. In fact, for many individuals and in many ways it is not unlike Rome's pagan love feasts that celebrated "*food for the belly and the belly for food.*" The philosophy states that nothing should be held back, the wants and desires of the individual are to be met, and personal pleasure and gain is to guide the course of the season.

We shouldn't really be surprised by such attitudes and behavior in the world at large. Someone who has not yet walked with his hand in the tender hand of the Son of God is still far separated from the love of the Lord and unable to understand the true meaning of Christmas. He is the one who has eyes but cannot see and ears that are unable to hear.

However, there are those of us who have walked with the Master. We have heard His call, and we know the truth. If we get caught up in the unbridled madness of a stressful commercial season, then we are the ones guilty of despising the name and cause of Jesus Christ. We have tasted His goodness and experienced His grace. We are to be the light and the salt to those stumbling in darkness.

Let's help remind one another of this as we gather together in our churches and homes. Let's prepare ourselves mentally and spiritually before we step into the lines with thousands of stressed angry buyers. You see, we are God's holy messengers today, and we are called to joyfully stand before the hopeless masses and proclaim "*do not be afraid, for we bring you good news of great joy.*"

Pray for those in line with you. Step back far enough to see them as God does. He loves them, and it truly grieves His Spirit when Christ followers fail to let the Spirit of Christ shine through them to light the way. Go the extra mile, be an example of hope and joy, and share a word about the One who celebrates a birthday on Christmas day.

Rev. Steve Manuel

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 04	Mason Arrington Joshua Howell
Dec. 07	Shirley Foley Hilda Plaster Jennifer R. Gary
Dec. 08	Boonie Hancock
Dec. 10	Kenneth Keen, Sr.
Dec. 11	Kay Harley
Dec. 12	Homer Hodges
Dec. 13	Megan Keen
Dec. 15	Peggy Morris
Dec. 16	Ethel Jones
Dec. 18	Betsy Rodgers Jean Thomas
Dec. 22	Ira Seay
Dec. 24	Howard Webb
Dec. 25	Barbara Slate Sue Seay Denver Stultz
Dec. 29	Jack Helms Kelly Gray Conner Megan Thompson
Dec. 30	Nathan Martin
Dec. 31	Roy Brown

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 2	Brenda Woods Shirley C. Young
Jan. 5	Ben Morris
Jan. 7	Sandra Martin
Jan. 8	Donna Winebarger
Jan. 9	Joyce Snead Ann Stone
Jan. 11	Kyrie Jo Turner Lori Keen Pruitt
Jan. 12	Lewis Turner Grover Harrison
Jan. 14	Carlos Coleman James Wray Gloria Keen
Jan. 16	Ryan McKee
Jan. 18	Kelly Webb
Jan. 19	Avis Gray
Jan. 20	Jacob Gray Eva Dale Searce
Jan. 21	Amy F. Jarrell Heidi Hodges Kelly Short
Jan. 22	Edwin France
Jan. 23	Linda Carter
Jan. 24	Erin Forbes
Jan. 25	Chris Andrews
Jan. 28	Frances Barnes
Jan. 30	Lester Thompson Geraldine Williams

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
Hazel Sizemore *Lillian Forbes
Angela Mason

Franklin Health Care
511 Orchard Ave. Rocky Mt. VA 24151
* Wanda Stone - 59A

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

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

Trinity Rehab, 300 Hatcher St.
Rocky Mt. VA 24151
*Norman Young - 142 Albert Meeks - 14

Be sure to check out our website
at "www.oaklevelbaptist.org"

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers placed in the Church Sanctuary on Sunday, September 29th, are in loving memory of Cecil Stone and were given by his wife, Wanda Stone.

Flowers placed in the Church Sanctuary on Sunday, November 17th, were in loving memory of Joe Stultz and were given by Betty Jo Foley.

Flowers placed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 2, 2013 are in loving memory of our Jesse Hanks Cox on his birthday and are given by his mother, Esther Hanks, family and friends, and Grace and Members.

In Memory

<u>NAME</u>	<u>FUND</u>
Matthew S. Thompson	Children's Fund
Tom & Winnie Young	General Fund
Cecil Stone	Building Fund
Belva Turner	General Fund



Do we
have
your
e-mail
address?

If you are not receiving
e-mails of our church
updates concerning the
sick, deaths, or other

related information, please e-mail a quick note to
the church if you would like your name added to
our E-mail address book.



The story of Adam and Eve was being explained in the children's Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw a picture that would illustrate the story. Little Bobby drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman. The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of Adam and Eve. Little Bobby explained, "Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"

With Sympathy

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Jesse & Barbara Cannaday on the death of Jesse's aunt, Mary Goldie King Tobler, who passed away September 20, 2013.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of James Elton Stanley, who passed away October 1, 2013.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Douglas K. Frith, who passed away Sunday, October 6, 2013.

Christian sympathy extended to Lee & Bugs Boswell on the death of her son, Danial Buckner, who passed away on Monday, November 11, 2013, from injuries he received in a car accident.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for their cards, visits, and prayers during the loss of my mother, Betty Ayers. Everything was so appreciated.

Brenda and Dennis Ferguson

These words cannot adequately express our deep appreciation for the way you have stood with us during the last several months. Your prayers, cards, e-mails, phone calls, and financial support have strengthened and encouraged us in a most powerful way. Not all churches would have shown this measure of love and patience. Thank you for your sweet spirit.

Steve & Barbara Manuel

Dear Church Family, thank you once again for the exceedingly generous way you have expressed your love. Barbara and I are so blessed by your concern and desire to walk along beside us each step of the way. You have helped to lift a heavy burden. Lord willing, we will see you in December. Steve & Barbara Manuel



DATES & TIMES FOR YOUTH MEETING

Youth Meetings are held **every other Sunday**. Dates for **December and January Meetings** are listed below. Please see **Missy Thompson** or call the Church Office for more details.

December Meetings

December 01 - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

December 15 - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

No Meeting on December 29th.

January Meetings

January 03 - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

January 19 - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.



ANGEL TREE SERVICE

An Angel Tree Service will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2013 in the Church Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is in the Church Foyer if you would like a loved one remembered on the Angel Tree.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Youth Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 22, 2013. Light refreshments will be served after the program in the Church Fellowship Hall.



¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
¹⁴ **"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."**
¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



Give to the
CBF *Offering for*
GLOBAL MISSIONS

EMPASIS DATE FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS
DECEMBER 15, 2013

CBF field personnel serving in West Africa since 2002 will speak to our church on Sunday, December 15th.

OLBC 2013 Goal - \$4,000.00
Offering to Date - \$2881.00

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

HYGIENE PACKETS FOR FLUVANNA CORRECTION CENTER FOR WOMEN

● We collected **18** Hygiene Bags for ladies at Fluvanna Correctional Center.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

● We collected **67** Shoeboxes - filled to the Brim and shipped around the world

Oak Level Baptist thanks everyone for your participation

HENRY COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The Associational Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at First Baptist Church, Bassett. Messengers attending from Oak Level Baptist Church were Betty Jo Foley, Esther Hanks, Wanda Stone, and Sue Young.

The meeting was very informative and the dinner and entertainment was great. We want to thank First Baptist, Bassett for hosting the HCBA Associational Annual meeting this year.

WMU MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

December 17 - WMU Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
January 28 - WMU Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S GET-AWAY AT EAGLE EYRIE

On November 1-3, the **WMU Women's Get-A-Way** was held at the **Eagle Eyrie Conference Center**. The glorious fall colors and bright sunshine on the mountain primed the pump of thanksgiving and worship as almost 800 women gathered to **CONNECT, COMMIT, and CELEBRATE!**

Women of all ages connected as women, sisters in Christ, and with God, through worship led by the music of the "**Logan Jones Band**".

Cathy Finley was the keynote speaker and challenged the group to spend time with God's Word. **Annette Hall** shared about the power of Story Telling and **Debby Ackerman** encouraged women to Hold On as they wait for God's timing.

The gathering also honored the work of the **Chaplain Service Prison ministry of VA** by responding to **Lynn Litchfield's** heart wrenching dramatization of an inmate looking for hope, by giving **\$6,000.00** and almost 500 toiletry kits for the **Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women**.

More than 20 breakout sessions encouraged the group to Commit to missions through **Operation In As Much**, the **Standing Rock Indian Reservation**, and caring for others suffering behind bars.

Ladies from Oak Level Baptist Church who attended the **Get-A-Way** were **Betty Jo Foley, Sheila Ramsey, Donna Winebarger and Sue Young**. They were blessed by staying at the **First Baptist Church of Martinsville's lodge** where they enjoyed meeting and having fellowship with Women from other churches from our area..

All women in our church should consider attending this wonderful event that is held each year during the first week of November. You will get a blessing!

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Youth Meeting 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.</p> 	2	3	<p>4</p>  <p>Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>PTS Meeting - 6:30 p.m.</p>	5	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.</p>  <p>Angel Tree Service 6:00 p.m.</p>	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Youth Meeting 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.</p> 	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Santa's Workshop Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. Pennies for the Precious</p> <p>Christmas Play Refreshments Served After</p> 	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>No Youth Meeting</p>	30	31	<p>Deacon of the Month - Jesse Cannaday - 276-629-2708</p> <p><i>Joy to the World</i></p> 			

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Deacon of the Month - Elmer Stone -</p>		<p>1</p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR</p> <p>No Men's Breakfast No PTS Services</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	2	3	4	
<p>5</p> <p>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Youth Meeting - 5:30 p.m.</p>  <p>Communion Sunday</p> 	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>12</p> <p>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.</p>	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>19</p> <p>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Youth Meeting - 5:30 p.m.</p> 	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>26</p> <p>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Pennies for the Precious</p> 	27	28	29	30	31	