

Oak Level Baptist Church

7720 Oak Level Road Bassett, VA 24055

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www.OakLevelBaptist.org

Volume 39

SHARING THE JOURNEY

December/January 2016

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

My family and I hope you have a joyful and peaceful Christmas season. You are invited to come and share in the special events at church. You are encouraged to invite someone to come with you to the various events. Many people in our community and around the world need to know the love of Christ born at Christmas. Come and experience the blessings of our Lord as we celebrate His birth in our hearts. Let us rejoice during this Christmas season. We pray for you and your family to celebrate the love and joy of Christmas and a New Year filled with many blessings.

Our family invites you to celebrate with us at the Parsonage Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 6 immediately following the morning worship service. Come and enjoy some light refreshments and fellowship.

Come and celebrate together in a special Christmas Eve Service beginning at 4:00 p.m. Invite your family and neighbors to join us for this special time together.

You are invited to participate in the Christmas Angel Tree, Christmas Cantata - "The Gift Goes On", and Children's Bell Choir on Sunday, December 13 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the program.

Thank you for the cards, goodies, and gifts I received during Pastor Appreciation Month. I am thankful for you and the many ways you share in the ministry at Oak Level.

Thank you for your faithful giving all through the year! We exceeded our goal for the Alma Hunt Missions Offering. The CBF Offering for Global Mission emphasis is November 29 through December 6. Thank you for praying for and giving to this special offering to help people in need around the world. One in eight persons suffer from hunger in the world and 2.8 billion people live on less than \$2.00 per day.

Blessings,
Pastor Joe
Luke 2:11

THE GOLDEN CLUB

Ethel Jones
7219 Oak Level Road
Bassett, VA 24055

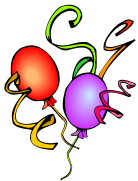
Ethel's favorite color is blue. Her favorite snack is cookies. She enjoys vegetables. Her favorite restaurant is the Dutch Inn. Ethel enjoys reading and watching TV. Matthew 6:33 is her favorite Bible verse. Her favorite hymn is "The Old Rugged Cross". She has been a faithful member at Oak Level for 40 years.

Martha Sue Meeks
10570 Virginia Avenue
Bassett, VA 24055

Martha Sue's favorite color is red. Chocolate candy is her favorite snack. She enjoys vegetables. Her favorite restaurant is Clarence's. She enjoys the computer. She collects cookbooks and she loves to cook. Her favorite Bible verse is John 3:16. Her favorite Bible story is the Easter story. "Thank You, Lord" is her favorite song. She has been a faithful member at Oak Level for 70 years.

December Birthdays

Dec. 04 Joshua Howell
Dec. 07 Shirley Foley
Hilda Plaster
Dec. 10 Kenneth Keen, Sr.
Dec. 12 Homer Hodges
Dec. 13 Megan Keen
Dec. 15 Peggy Morris
Dec. 16 Ethel Jones
Dec. 18 Betsy Henny
Jean Thomas
Dec. 22 Ira Seay
Dec. 24 Howard Webb
Dec. 25 Barbara Slate
Sue Seay
Denver Stultz
Dec. 29 Kelly Gray Conner
Megan Thompson
Dec. 30 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 Ann Stone
Jan. 11 Lori Keen Pruitt
Jan. 12 Lewis Turner
Grover Harrison
Jan. 14 Carlos Coleman
James Wray
Gloria Keen
Jan. 16 Ryan McKee
Hannah Glass
Jan. 18 Kelly Webb
Jan. 19 Avis Gray
Jan. 20 Jacob Gray
Eva Dale Searce
Jan. 21 Amy F. Jarrell
Heidi Hodges
Jan. 23 Linda Carter
Jan. 28 Frances Barnes
Jan. 30 Geraldine Williams

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Blue Ridge Rehab Center, 300 Blue Ridge St., Martinsville, VA 24112

*Dot Wray - Room 106 (Assisted Living)
Sue Meeks - Room 213
Jake Divers - Room 106 (Rehab)

Fork Mtn. Rest Home, 2925 Fork Mtn. Rd. Rocky Mt, 24151

*Wanda Stone Hazel Sizemore
Howard Hodges

Live Laugh & Love Home Care, 2634 Fork Mtn. Rd. Bassett, VA 24055

*Pauline Martin

Hanson Home, 162 Krontz Drive, Bassett, VA 24055

*Betty Sue Sparks (Sister of Shirley Tobler)

Harmony Hall, P.O. Box 1614, Bassett, VA 24055

Louise Turner Betty Pagans

Stanleytown Health Care, 240 Riverside Dr., Bassett, VA 24055

Gracie Bullins Blandean Akers

The Laurels, 72 Chatham Business Park Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312

*Lovelene S. Lewis (Sister of Shirley Tobler)

Trinity Nursing Health/Rehab, Hillsville, VA 24343

Arnold Hanks (Father of Esther Hanks)
Carrie Mae Harold (Aunt of Brenda Ferguson)

WITH SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Fynlee Ogle who passed away on Thursday, October 15, 2015. She was the infant daughter of Casey and Shaun-Claire Ogle and the grand-daughter of Roger and Cindy Young.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family and friends of James Harry Lovell, who passed away on Friday, October 23, 2015. He was the brother-in-law of Elmer Stone.

Sincere Christian sympathy is extended to Roger Woods and family on the death of his uncle, Thomas L. Foley. Mr. Foley passed away Wednesday, October 28, 2015.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Cindy Ramsey Swanson, who passed away on Friday, October 30, 2015. Cindy was a charter member of Oak Level Baptist Church. She was the sister of John Kenneth Ramsey and Mary Frith.

Sincere Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Everlyn Lawson who passed away Sunday, November 1, 2015. Mrs. Lawson was the great grandmother of Sara Seay.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Ethel Jones and family on the death of her niece, Gertrude Huff, who passed away on Tuesday, November 3, 2015.



THANK YOU

Thank you for your many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy during the illness and death of our mother. We want to especially thank Pastor Joe for ministering to us, the ladies who prepared the delicious meal and the men who served as pallbearers. The Hurd Family

I want to thank everyone for the many prayers, visits, calls, and cards during my recent illness. I am doing much better and appreciate all your kind gestures.

Nancy Turner

Thank you for the cards, phone calls, visits, and many acts of kindness while I was ill. Words cannot express my sincerest and most heartfelt gratitude for my church family and your support while in my time of need. Thanks again. Barbara Cannaday

Thank you for the book and for recognizing me as a 2015 graduate! I will read the book and apply it in the future!

Sam Seay



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

The Glass family cordially invites you to attend a Christmas Open House at the parsonage on **Sunday, December 6** immediately following the worship service. Join them for

light refreshments and great fellowship!

ANGEL TREE AND CHRISTMAS CANTATA SERVICE

An Angel Tree Service will be held on **Sunday, December 13, 2015** in the Church Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet is in the Church Foyer if you would like a loved one remembered on the Angel Tree. The choir will present a Christmas cantata entitled "**The Gift Goes On**" following the Angle Tree service. The children will perform some Christmas songs with the hand bells. Don't miss this time of celebrating the birth of Jesus in song and music. Bring your favorite finger foods and share in a time of fellowship following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

There will be a special guest arriving for the kids!



SANTA'S CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

The Children's Sunday School department will be working on special gifts for their parents on

Sunday, December 20. Each child will create a special Christmas card for their mother and one for their father. All children are invited to attend during the Sunday School hour. For more information, see Peggy Morris.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

You are invited to celebrate with family and friends on Thursday, December 24 at **4:00 pm** in this service of prayer, music, and a brief message. We will receive a blessing as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will meet **Wednesday, January 6,** at 5:30 p.m. Come prepared to plan events for the church calendar to May 2016. Those on the church council include: Pastor, Deacons Chairperson, Music Director, Stewardship Chairperson, Sunday School Director, WMU Director, and Youth Coordinating Chairperson. Other committee chairpersons are encouraged to attend if they have items to add to the calendar.



December Meetings

Sunday, Dec. 20 - Youth Christmas Party
at Missy Thompson's house - 5:00 p.m.

January Meetings

Sunday, Jan. 10 - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 24 - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

YOUTH TRIP TO CHARLOTTE, NC

The Youth are planning a trip to the Charlotte Motor Speedway to see the Christmas lights and shop at the Concord Mills Mall on **Saturday, December 5.** They will leave at 10 a.m. and return around midnight. See Missy Thompson for more details.



WINTER JAM 2016
MARCH 24
BERGLUND CENTER
ROANOKE, VA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?" The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my E-mail?"



"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Isaiah 9: 6-7 (KJV)



WMU MEETINGS

Tuesday - December 22 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday - January 26 - 6:30 p.m.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS!



Thank you to everyone who gave to the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions! We surpassed the goal of \$800 and collected **\$970**.



Thank you to everyone who donated, prepared, and help ship the **19 shoe boxes** for Operation Christmas Child with Samaritan Purse. Your generosity will put smiles on children's faces this Christmas season.

GOOD NEWS JAIL MINISTRY

The WMU and Youth are sponsoring a collection of small items to be donated to the Good News Jail Ministry for the inmates' Christmas bags. There will be a giftwrapped collection box located in the church foyer to place items. Approved items include: white tube socks, no stripes; plain white envelopes; individually wrapped cookies; individually wrapped candy bars; pack of Nabs; and Christmas cards with envelopes. All donations need to be placed in the box by **Wednesday, December 9**.

THE GRACE NETWORK OF MHC

Please do not forget this area wide food pantry. Instead of having a food pantry at the church, we donate all items to this cooperative effort and refer people to this resource. Together with other churches we can do so much more than we could by ourselves. The current items needed from our church are always listed in the bulletin and any other pantry staples that you would want to donate would be appreciated. You can also visit their website at <http://www.gracenetorkmhc.org> to make a monetary donation on a one-time or regular basis.

WMUV inspires and equips women to influence the world for Christ.

Give to the
CBF *Offering for*
GLOBAL MISSIONS

OLBC 2015 Goal - \$2,000.00

Offering Received - \$821.80

Special "#End Hunger" emphasis will be
November 29 - December 6, 2015

Please plan to give to this offering during this time and help us reach our goal for 2015!

"What is the CBF Offering for Global Missions?"

Simply stated, the CBF Offering is the primary giving channel for ensuring long-term transformation by supporting field personnel and their ministries. It is a year-round campaign in which churches and individuals are invited to participate in God's mission by making a financial gift."

"What does the CBF Offering do?"

Missions giving through the Offering is an important spiritual discipline. This is the opportunity in our stewardship to let go of control and trust others and God. This is the foundation of our organization and ensures a consistent missions presence around the world. The offering supports all CBF field personnel, including those who also receive funding from other sources." (Taken from CBF Offering for Global Missions Leader's Guide)

PRAYER FOCUS FOR TINDI PEOPLE



The 10,000 Tindi speaking people live in 14 villages in the mountainous region of Dagestan near the Georgia border. The Tindi have followed Sunni Islam for many

centuries along with ancient nature worship of the sun, moon, and other created things.

Pray that a young Tindi university student will be open to hear the gospel from a Dagestani believer and will share with his Tindi family and relatives. No part of the gospel has been translated into the Tindi language.



December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m. PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	3	4	5 Community Meal at Sally's Restaurant -8 am Youth trip to Charlotte, NC Leave at 10 am
6 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Open House at Parsonage Noon – 2 pm Cantata Practice 2:00 - 4:00 pm	7	8 Deacons' Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	9 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	10	11	12
13 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Angel Tree/Christmas Cantata/Bell Choir – 5:30 pm	14	15	16 Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.	17	18	19
20 Sunday School – 9:45 am Santa's Workshop Worship Service – 11:00 am Youth Christmas Party 5:00 pm at Missy's	21	22 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	23 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	24 Christmas Eve Service 4 pm Bousman Family Fellowship Hall Church Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26 Susan Gillespie 50 th Birthday Party Fellowship Hall Reserved
27 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am  Pennies for the Precious	28	29	30 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	31		

Deacon of the Month – Jesse Cannaday

Counters of the Month – Lee Pettit & Shirley Gilbert

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Church Office Closed New Year's Day	2
3 Communion Sunday Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	4	5 Deacons' Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	6 Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Church Council 5:30 PM PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	7	8	9 Community Meal 11:00 am
10 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Youth Mtg. 3:00 - 5:00 pm 	11	12	13 Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.	14	15	16
17 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	18	19	20 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	21	22	23
24 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Youth Mtg. 3:00 - 5:00 pm   Pennies for the Precious	25	26 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	27 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	28	29	30
31 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am						
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Deacon of the Month – Elmer Stone Counters of the Month – Ben Morris & Homer Hodges </div>						