

# Oak Level Baptist Church

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Volume 33

“SHARING THE JOURNEY”

June/July 2012

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## Spiritual Pygmies

As you read this article, most certainly sitting in a climate controlled environment enjoying all of the conveniences afforded you in this wealthy, and most often materialistic culture, I invite you to think deeply on what follows.

Somewhere in this world of seven billion souls, during these very moments, a follower of Jesus Christ is being physically brutalized by a group of people who want no part of our Lord or His teaching. Many of these believers will die at the hands of their attackers.

For the past hour or more a lone bare-foot messenger has been walking hardened dirt trails deep into secluded mountains in order to share God's indescribable love with a village or community that has never heard the whole story. Some of the villagers, in fact, have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of this distant traveler, because they had only heard enough of the story to keep them sitting on the edges of their seats.

In yet another part of the world, a missionary sits at the breakfast table with his wife and three children. The electricity is off again, and they've not had a working phone for weeks. The water in the gravity-fed rooftop tank is getting low. They spend time praying for one another and the many tasks that lie ahead, and they take strength in the fact that there is no doubt that they are held in the center of God's hand obediently experiencing His perfect will.

At this same instant, beneath the old and majestic arms of a ceibo tree, a group of about 250 gather to hear a pastor teach from the book of John. It is mid-afternoon, and just outside the protective shield of leaves the sun is beating down at an incredible 108 degrees. This church has been meeting outdoors for about two years, and during the rainy season they have to rethink arrangements so they make it through the brief summer downpours. They are praying for the day when they will have an adobe structure with a tin roof that will give a bit more permanence to the meeting schedule. The downpours will still challenge them, but now only because of the deafening rain beating on the tin.

On a remote arid hillside an angry mob led by their local religious leaders has just finished bringing a small church building to the ground with their heavy clubs and rocks. They had warned the evangelicals before to stop preaching Jesus and to leave the area "or else". Just steps away the pastor and one of his leaders lie in a pool of their own blood. They will never again meet with their congregation, because they've now joined the swelling ranks of modern day Christian martyrs who have died for the privilege to name Jesus Christ Lord and Savior.

Elsewhere a brother has just crawled into his hammock following an extremely long and physically draining day. Through the aches and tiredness he gives thanks to God for his safety as he was able to testify to the power of Christ. In the heat of the night, under the veil of his mosquito net, he will drift off to sleep in anticipation of tomorrow's new adventure.

And while all of this happens around the world, as we breathe gently and take ease in our abundance, a quick inventory of our situation reveals that for the most part we are producing another generation of spiritual pygmies in the United States of America. Now if we were supposed to be of small spiritual stature, this would be no problem, but God's purpose for us is that we grow to be mighty men and women of God, even giants of faith.

With massive monuments to our religious pursuits and billions upon billions of dollars invested in external decorations and creature comforts that cater to our personal desires, we must admit that we have it extremely easy. We'll not wonder about where to gather with the brethren this next week, nor lose a moment's rest worrying about or facing persecution of biblical proportions.

Our greatest struggles will likely come when we are offended by brother so-and-so who criticized the way we set the thermostat or failed to return all of the stainless steel kitchenware to its proper place. Instead of dealing with climate, impassable roads, flooding rivers, extreme poverty, and bandits waiting to attack, too many of us will come up with newer and better reasons to rationalize our failure to share Jesus in our beautifully landscaped communities among a people group just as spiritually lost as the tribe or clan 8,000 miles from here.

In contrast to a people who sit on logs and spend hours in the dust and heat for the blessed privilege to worship God, fellowship with the brethren, and learn new and exciting truths from God's Word, we will draw angry battle lines in the sand, invent lies about other Christians, and rarely read (much less study) the Bible to see what God is saying in a personal and intimate way. As long as we can look busy and stay moderately active inside our buildings it matters very little what we do or say on the outside.

This will fuel our descent into lower mediocrity and spiritual immaturity, and our children, grandchildren, and many acquaintances will repeat even more frequently that well-known refrain, "*I don't need church, because I'm just as good as they are.*" Shamefully it's not their goodness being called into question but rather our badness. They don't need church, because we are as bad as they are.

This is not rocket science. Many people do not recognize our Christian faith or seek out Jesus for the simple reason that we do not love as we should. Jesus said clearly in John 13, "*This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*" If the lost are not coming to Christ we must accept the responsibility in great part, because we do not love one another. Who wants to be part of a body that fails to patiently love the very members of the church or is just as dysfunctional and ill-behaved as the family or group of which they are already a part?

2 Timothy 2 instructs the diligent believer, "*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*" This is an oft quoted verse designed to encourage and motivate us to the great task of teaching godly principles and truth. Unfortunately, the concept may be applied in a destructive way. We are raising countless numbers of spiritual pygmies in our congregations, because the negative and harmful things we see and hear are being passed on to other less faithful members, "*who shall be able to teach others also.*" Instead of a beautiful design always being applied for holy purposes, there are far too many in our churches teaching and learning wrong attitudes and behavior. This ugly cycle is repeated from one generation to another resulting in spiritually impoverished churches with more and more of our children electing to no longer associate with church. In this sense we are losing the battle on two fronts, decay within and disinterest without.

God is our only sure hope. Until we strike out on a disciplined journey with the Lord, moving beyond the pabulum, soft lazy chairs, and selfish comforts our affluence brings, we will not know personally what it means to "*attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming. Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love.*" (Ephesians 4:13-16)

Lord of Heaven and Earth, impress us heavily with the imperative to "*grow in every way.*"

Rev. Steve Manuel

**YARD SALE**  
AT  
**FORK MOUNTAIN  
REST HOME**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2012  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
TO RAISE MONEY TO PROVIDE A  
**JULY 4TH**  
  
**FRIED CHICKEN SUPPER**  
FOR THE RESIDENTS  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A  
DONATION OR CONTRIBUTE ITEMS  
FOR SALE, PLEASE BRING THEM TO  
**Fork Mountain Rest Home**  
BY JUNE 9, 2012

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**Saturday, June 23**  
**8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.**  
**For all Children ages 4 and up**  
**Under 4 must have an adult with them**  
Bible Stories, Crafts, Activities  
Learn Life Applications  
To Register call Peggy Morris at  
540-489-8577 or the Church Office at  
629-7973.  
(Office hours are 9:00-1:00, Monday –

### June Birthdays

June 1 John R. Copeland  
Susan M. Medley  
Louise Vipperman  
Beverly W. Keaton  
June 2 Penny Martin  
Andrew Thomas  
June 3 Lauren Monday  
June 4 Michael Turner  
June 5 Lisa Slate Ackerman  
June 6 Ben Workinger  
June 7 Linda Poore  
June 8 Peggy J. Ramsey  
June 9 Judy Nester  
June 11 Tammy Lynn Reel  
June 12 Connie Hale  
June 18 Jeffrey Ferguson  
June 19 Brittany Hausley  
June 21 Barbara Cannaday  
June 23 Kenneth Keen, Jr.  
June 24 Alice S. Brown  
June 27 Daisy Barnes  
Lois T. Ferguson  
June 28 Mattie Robertson  
June 29 Garry Barrow

### July Birthdays

July 2 Tracey M. Foley  
July 3 Brenda Ferguson  
Lena Gardner  
July 5 David Turner  
July 7 Verna Shelor  
July 9 Violet Frith  
Sharon M. Hall  
Della Chapman  
July 10 Billy Young  
July 17 Jesse Cannaday  
July 18 Brandi Barrett  
July 21 Imogene McMillan  
July 22 Betty R. Martin  
Edna W. Amos  
July 24 Jean Swain  
July 26 Donna France  
David Keen  
July 27 Sherri Mason  
July 28 Scott Judson  
July 29 Betty Jo Foley  
July 31 Mike Weaver

### REHAB & REST HOME RESIDENTS

Blue Ridge Manor,  
P.O. Box 4904, Martinsville, VA 24112  
Alice Martin - Room 205  
Estelle Frith - Room 106

Blue Ridge Rehab,  
P.O. Box 4904, Martinsville, VA 24112  
\*Glen Young - Room 262

Fork Mountain Rest Home,  
2925 Fork Mtn. Rd. Rocky Mt, 24151  
Golden Stone                      Howard Hodges  
\*Lillian Forbes                      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

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



### OUR DVD MINISTRY

Oak Level Baptist Church offers DVD's of the weekly Sunday Worship Service, free of charge to shut-ins or anyone who would like to receive one. Please call Sue Young at the Church Office at 276-629-7973 to get on our mailing list. Office hours are Monday thru Friday, 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



### IN MEMORY

#### Fund

#### Name

General Fund

Goldie Brogan  
Mary Draper  
Shirley K. Young

Children's Fund

Charlie Ramsey

### OAK LEVEL BAPTIST CHURCH 75TH ANNIVERSARY


The date of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be **Sunday, September 23, 2012.** The speaker for that Sunday will be **Rev. L. Grant Carter**, who served as pastor at Oak Level from 1980-1988, Also, the Anniversary Committee needs items pertaining to the history of the church. If you have pictures, old bulletins, or other history bits and pieces, please bring them to the church so they can be scanned and used for our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For more information, see Donna Winebarger or Martha Meeks or call the Church Office at 629-7973.



### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Tony & Jenna Ratliff on the birth of their daughter, Ava Ratliff, who was born Tuesday, May 8, 2012. She weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz. Her proud grandparents are Alvin & Vivian Ratliff, and great-grandparents are Wilbern & Martha Sue Meeks. Ava has a brother, AJ Ratliff.

**GOD IS LOVE!**



With Sympathy

Christian sympathy extended to Clarence Pierce, Jonathan Pierce, and Joseph Pierce on the death of Clarence's father and Joe and Jon's grandfather, Ervin Pierce, who passed away Saturday, April 14, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Mary Davis, of the Henry County Baptist Association on the death of her brother-in-law, Delmar Davis, who passed away, Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to the Rev. Bonnylee Witt and her family and friends on the death of her father, Mr. Carl Witt, who passed away on April 17, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of our church member, Goldie Peters Brogan, who passed away Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, the gifts, the phone calls, and all the "Happy Birthday" wishes that were sent my way on my birthday. Everyone is so thoughtful and I appreciate your kindness so much. Sue Young

We want to thank Oak Level Baptist Church and Steve Manuel for the wonderful Memorial Service for our mother, Mary Draper, and also for the meal after the service. We are very appreciative of the kindness and concern that was shown to us. Thank you again so much. The Mary Draper Family

The church wants to thank the Hostess Team and the ones who prepared the food, set up tables, and helped with the clean up for the Draper Memorial Service and the Rick Dellinger Sunday Service. It took a lot of work, and it is very much appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who brought gifts and trinkets for the youth to go shopping for Mother's Day presents. The youth had a great time shopping and their mother's received some nice gifts. Peggy Morris

We would like to thank the WMU of Oak Level Baptist Church for the generous contribution towards the work of *Serving His Children*. We enjoyed our visit at your church and thank you for the opportunity to tell about *Serving His Children*. Lauri Bach

Thank you for letting us use your church for our wedding. The sanctuary is beautiful and getting married in such a setting made the wedding even more special. Also, a special thank you to Jesse Cannaday who graciously agreed to oversee the sound system for our wedding. Kevin & Crystal Boyd



## OUR 2012 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Congratulations to Holly Thompson who graduated from Franklin County High School. She will be attending Roanoke College. She is the daughter of Diona & Russell Thompson and is a member of Oak Level Baptist Church.

Congratulations to Bradley C. Turner who graduated from Patrick County High School. He will be attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Bradley is the son of Mitcheal and Shelly Turner and grandson of Betty Jo Foley.

Congratulations to Brianna N. Rouse who graduated from Randolph Early College High School in North Carolina. Brianna will be attending Ferrum College/UNC Wilmington. She is the daughter of Karen and Greg Rouse and the granddaughter of Jesse and Barbara Cannaday.

Congratulations to Taylor Shea Biggs, who graduated from Bassett High School Saturday, June 2, 2012. Taylor is planning to attend Patrick Henry Community College. She is the daughter of Dean & Jane Arrington and Steven Biggs. She is the granddaughter of Benny & Sue Young, Gary & Susie Ramsey, and Dianne Arrington.



## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY JONES EDUCATIONAL FUND

Oak Level Baptist Church awarded five scholarships from the Jones Educational Fund. The five recipients are:

- Andrew L. Hodges, son of Lannie & Lisa Hodges and grandson of Homer & Mary Hodges.
- Brittany Haulsey, daughter of Bobby Haulsey
- Brianna N. Rouse, daughter of Karen & Greg Rouse and granddaughter of Jesse & Barbara Cannaday.
- Holly Thompson, daughter of Diona & Russell Thompson
- Bradley C. Turner, son of Mitcheal and Shelby Turner and grandson of Betty Jo Foley.





### June/July 2012 Calendar

**June 07- PTS Meeting - 6:15 p.m.** Sharing where our mission dollars go..The WMU will share how our mission dollars support ministries through the **CBF Global Missions; Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV); Alma Hunt Offering; and Henry Co Baptist Association (HCBA)**. Please come out to hear what you are doing when you give!

**June 26 - WMU Meeting - 7:00 p.m.**

**July 23 - WMU Meeting - 7:00 p.m.**

# Engage

## EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Exploitation of Natural Resources for personal gain is the abuse of natural resources that jeopardizes the health and well-being of human lives, and leads to the lack of available resources such as clear water and clear air.

This is a miss ional issue because the misuse and abuse of natural resources for personal gain often means a disregard for the earth and for human lives. As Christians our lives must not create a burden for others. Instead we should be an advocate for those who suffer due to irresponsible decisions regarding the use of natural resources.

### EXAMPLES OF EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Dumping trash and pollutants in a lake or river
2. Strip mining which causes land erosion and depletion.
- 3 Excessive and wasteful water consumption.
4. Contamination of air.
5. Deforestation of jungles and forest.

### WAYS TO ENGAGE

- Pray for those who engage in irresponsible practices which endanger a community leaving people jobless, lowering living standards, and endangering citizens' health; for awareness of where you can improve conservations of natural resources.
- Educate yourself about how natural resources are misused and abused.



## DEDICATED & DELIVERED TO STANDING ROCK INDIAN RESERVATION

### 41 Jumpers - PJ's & Pillowcases



## DEDICATED & DELIVERED TO LUCHA MINISTRIES

### 5 BOOKBAGS








Give to the  
CBF *Offering for*  
GLOBAL MISSIONS 

**OLBC 2012 GOAL - \$3,000.00**

**TOTAL TO DATE: \$1530.00**

# June 2012

| Sun   | Mon | Tue                           | Wed   | Thu   | Fri | Sat   |
|---|-----|-------------------------------|---|---|-----|---|
|  <p><i>Happy Father's Day!</i></p>      |     |                               |   |   | 1   | 2   |
| Deacon of the Month - Ben Morris - 540-489-8577   |     |                               |   |   |     |   |
| 3<br>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.<br><br>Ozzie Young Reunion<br>(Fellowship Hall Reserved) | 4   | 5                             | 6<br>Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m.<br><br>Deacon Meeting<br>7:00 p.m.   | 7<br>PTS (Pray, Teach & Share)<br>6:15 p.m.   | 8   | 9<br>Picnic Shelter/Parking Lot<br>Reserved<br>(Wilson/Anderson Wedding)        |
| 10<br>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.   | 11  | 12                            | 13<br>Transition Team Mtg.<br>7:00 p.m.   | 14<br>Worship & Business Mtg/<br>6:15 p.m.<br><br>Youth Meeting - 5:00 p.m.<br><br> Flag Day | 15  | 16<br>Young Reunion<br>Fellowship Hall Reserved                                 |
| 17<br>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.<br><br><b>FATHER'S DAY</b><br><i>GIRLS</i>              | 18  | 19                            | 20<br> Summer Begins   | 21<br>PTS (Pray, Teach & Share)<br>6:15 p.m.  | 22  | 23<br>Vacation Bible<br>School<br>8:30 - 1:00 p.m.<br>(Call church to Register) |
| 24<br>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.<br><br>Walker Reunion<br>(Fellowship Hall Reserved)     | 25  | 26<br>WMU Meeting - 7:00 p.m. | 27  | 28<br>PTS (Pray, Teach & Share)<br>6:15 p.m.<br><br>Youth Meeting - 5:00 p.m.   | 29  | 30  |

# July 2012

| Sun  | Mon | Tue                           | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat  |
|--|-----|-------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| 1<br>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.<br><br> COMMUNION | 2   | 3                             | 4<br> JULY<br>Independence Day<br>(Church Office Closed)                              | 5<br>PTS (Pray, Teach & Share)<br>6:15 p.m.                                   | 6   | 7  |
| 8<br>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.   | 9   | 10                            | 11   | 12<br>Youth Meeting - 5:00 p.m.<br><br>Worship & Business Mtg<br>6:15 p.m.    | 13  | 14   |
| 15<br>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.<br><br>Brown Reunion<br>(Fellowship Hall Reserved)   | 16  | 17                            | 18   | 19<br>PTS (Pray, Teach & Share)<br>6:15 p.m.                                  | 20  | 21<br>Spaghetti Dinner<br>Youth Fundraiser                           |
| 22<br>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.  | 23  | 24<br>WMU Meeting - 7:00 p.m. | 25   | 26<br>Youth Meeting - 5:00 p.m.<br><br>PTS (Pray, Teach & Share)<br>6:15 p.m. | 27  | 28<br>Stultz Reunion<br>(Fellowship Hall Reserved)<br>Betty Jo Foley |
| 29<br>Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.<br>Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.  | 30  | 31                            |   |   |  |  |
| Deacon of the Month - Homer Hodges - 276-629-8885  |     |                               |  |   |   |  |