

# Oak Level Baptist Church

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[www.OakLevelBaptist.org](http://www.OakLevelBaptist.org)

Volume 33

*“SHARING THE JOURNEY”*

April/May 2012

## Ten Easy Steps to No Church Growth

There are hundreds of titles readily available to those of us who want to learn how to grow a church, but books outlining the best approaches to wreck a church are not so common. I sense a unique niche here, so here is a preliminary outline of ten easy steps almost any nominal church member may use in order to thwart harmony, discipleship, and soul winning.

**Support and participate only in those events and programs that are most convenient for your sake and comfort,** and be firm about taking no personal interest in the spiritual development of any other soul. If you won't be "getting anything out of it," simply ignore it.

**Complain often to as many people as possible about your church and its members.** Repeat rumors, belittle others, and look for the worst in people and situations. Be especially vocal with your criticism of the pastor, his family, and their involvement in church and community activities. Look for the most petty things to criticize such as sermon content and length, clothes, and lifestyles.

**Do not tithe.** It's alright to give a few dollars from time to time, but only give what you can reasonably afford after having paid all other bills and purchased important personal and luxury items for you and your family.

**Never allow personal Bible study and prayer to interfere with your important schedule or crowd those things you count as priorities.** As long as your job, family, recreation, and rest are at the top of your list you shouldn't be bothered by prayers other than those quickly recited at the dinner table or in an emergency. An uncommon amount of prayer or attention to spiritual matters may hamper relationships or cause you an unusual embarrassment or unwanted reputation.

**When it is necessary to attend a worship service, Bible study, or ministry event, don't waste time taking notes or exploring Bible passages later at home.** It is best to forget the message taught, and under no circumstance should you be driven by either guilt or the Holy Spirit to apply principles learned or change an attitude or opinion.

**Promote personal freedom of religion.** What one man considers sin another considers fun and normal. Don't be a judge of others' lifestyles and life choices. "What goes around comes around." If you begin thinking that there are serious consequences to the beliefs and pursuits of other men and women, you can be sure that your own actions and viewpoints will be called into question. Allow your children to explore faith on their own rather than forcing your beliefs on them.

**When appropriate, affirm your belief in Jesus and God, but don't allow Him to Lord it over you.** You must be realistic. You are responsible to live your own life and make all decisions this side of the grave. To believe that someone else actually owns your property or is concerned about your day to day affairs is very impractical and may cost you.

**Have no concern for the needs of others.** You have enough trouble and responsibility to keep you busy, and that leaves no room for compassion or interest in the hurts and crushing burdens of others. For those truly in need, there are many government agencies and benevolent organizations that have been created just for that purpose. Fewer attachments and relationships will help keep your own affairs in order.

**Never volunteer to share or cooperate with others in ministry.** There are too many who do not believe just like you do or who will drag you down with more work. Cooperation inevitably leads to disagreements and will require more time, energy, and money. As the old saying goes, "If you want something done right, just do it yourself."

**NEVER admit your faults, NEVER ask forgiveness, and NEVER seek out what God genuinely thinks about a particular matter, unless it is to your advantage in winning an argument or gaining control over someone else.**

If you will begin to practice these steps, you are guaranteed to stymie growth, create an atmosphere of distrust and discord, motivate your pastor to start praying for another place of service, become known even in circles outside church, and help more people to hell than you can imagine.

- Pastor: Steve Manuel

## April Birthdays

Apr. 3 Shirley Draper  
 April Draper  
 Apr. 5 April Gammons  
 Apr. 4 Meaghan Poore  
 Apr. 08 Christopher Howell  
 Apr. 10 Mary Hodges  
 Deborah Thomas  
 Apr. 11 Brittany Rodgers  
 Apr. 15 Alexandra Gill  
 Apr. 16 Kim C. Dickerson  
 Joseph Pierce  
 Jonathan Pierce  
 Sherry Y. Stone  
 Apr. 17 Dana Young  
 Apr. 18 Laura Workinger  
 Apr. 19 Barbara Hodges  
 Apr. 20 April M. Haulsey  
 Virginia Metz  
 Apr. 22 Wilbern Meeks  
 Apr. 26 Carroll Draper  
 Apr. 27 Randall Turner  
 Apr. 28 Caroline Snead  
 Apr. 29 Bruce Thompson  
 Apr. 30 John Wilson

## May Birthdays

May 3 Genell W. Parker  
 May 5 Audie Atkins  
 Debra Brown  
 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 29 Belva Turner  
 May 30 May Seay  
 Whittni Wright

## 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 272  
 Jim Belcher - Room 201

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

Stanleytown Health Care  
P.O. Box 538, Stanleytown, VA 24168  
 Janie Keys                      Lolene Gusler- 222  
 Shelby Whitlow - 204

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



## 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.



## National Day of Prayer

May 3, 2012 - 7:00 PM

Mill Creek Missionary Baptist Church  
 6200 Henry Road, Henry, VA

Prayers for Governmental Leaders  
 National State and Local

Our families, churches & other important areas  
**GUEST SPEAKER, BILL OVERTON,**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF**

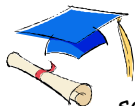


**Do we have your e-mail address?**

Anyone who has not been receiving church e-mails of prayer requests, deaths, and other important information, please make sure we have

your correct e-mail address by sending an e-mail to the church at [olbc@comcast.net](mailto:olbc@comcast.net)

Just a reminder, you can also check out our website at [www.oaklevelbaptist.org](http://www.oaklevelbaptist.org), where you can find news and events going on at the church and in the community.




## DO YOU HAVE ANYONE GRADUATING?

If you know someone that is graduating from high school or college this year and would like their name included in the June-July newsletter, please call the Church Office at 276-629-7973 to give your information or e-mail the church at [olbc@comcast.net](mailto:olbc@comcast.net).



## IN MEMORY

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Name</u>
General Fund	Shirley K. Young
Children's Fund	Robert E. Pettit, Jr. Shirley K. Young



With Sympathy

Christian sympathy extended to Ethel Jones and her family and friends on the death of her nephew, Coy Tuck, who passed away Monday, February 13, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Dylan Barbour, who passed away Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Jesse and Barbara Cannaday and their family and friends on the death of Jesse's aunt, Ruth Cannaday Thompson, who passed away February 15, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Jesse and Barbara Cannaday and their family and friends on the death of Jesse's aunt, Mary Ingram Cannaday, who passed away February 18, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Carroll and Shirley Draper, David and Teresa Draper Seay, and Larry and Phyllis Draper Galen and their family and friends on the death of Carroll's, Phyllis', and Teresa's mother, Mary Draper, who passed away Saturday, March 03, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Charlie Ramsey who passed away March 15, 2012.

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,  
Words cannot express our appreciation for all the love, concern, prayers, and comfort you gave to us during this extremely difficult time. The funeral service for mom was well planned and very moving. Our meal was, as always, at Oak Level, absolutely phenomenal. Also, a Huge Thank You to our church choir. The music was absolutely beautiful! Your special tribute to Mom really touched our hearts. Oak Level Baptist Church, we love you all, you are a very special blessing in our lives.  
Sincerely, Norman Young, Sherry Danny, & Rosa Stone

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Thank you for the many expressions of kindness you have shown me throughout the past difficult year. Your prayers and other acts of love have been a real blessing to me. Sincere Love,  
Virginia Metz



**GRACE NETWORK**

Include these items on your shopping list when you go to the Grocery Store. Bring them to the church where they will be delivered to Grace Network.

**Food Items for April/May are:**

- Toilet Paper
- Bath Soap
- Juice
- Bread Mixes - (Bisquick Type - 40 oz.)



# EASTER EGG HUNT

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 7th from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt, along with crafts, games, and a snack will be provided. All ages are invited to attend.

**INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY NEEDED**

Donations of individually wrapped candy are needed for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please have those items at the church by Wednesday, April 04<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We also need **VOLUNTEERS** at the Easter Egg Hunt to help with preparing snacks, hiding eggs, serving food, helping with games, and other activities. For more information, please see Ben or Peggy Morris.

**SENIOR ADULTS**

**Quarterly Meeting:** Join us on Thursday, April 26, 12:00 noon at **First Baptist, Martinsville** for our next meeting. The J.B. Singers will provide entertainment. Bring a sandwich and let's fellowship together!

**Senior Trips:** Don't forget the trips to Culpepper and the Pennsylvania Dutch Tour. Call **Betsy Ivey** for more information at 647-7248.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

APRIL 19, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.

At the HCBA Office



**VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL CLINIC**

Thursday, April 26, 2012

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**Mount Vernon Baptist Church**

**GOD IS LOVE!**

April/May 2012 Calendar

- April 10 - WMU Annual Meeting  
 13-15 - Shine for Teen Girls & Leaders  
 24 - WMU Mtg - 7:00 p.m.  
 27-29 - Mom & Me
- May 11/17 Ingathering of CBF Missions  
 14 - Prayer Study With Love)  
 27 - WMU Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

**Engage**



STANDING ROCK RESERVATION

- Donate \$10 Walmart Gift Cards for new pillows.
- Make pillow cases for children and adults.
- Standard size pillowcases are needed.



Mom & Me 2012

April 27-28 and April 28-29

for girls (1st-5th graders) and their moms.  
 For more information go to [WMUV.org](http://WMUV.org)

SHINE 2012

You & I are called to live in community -  
 with God and with each other.

At Shine 2012, we will explore this idea through missions, worship, Bible study, breakouts, and more. Come discover how we can 'stay together' and join Jesus Christ where He is at work in the world.

Who should Come - Teenage girls (grades 6-12)

When - April 13-15 (Friday & Saturday kickoff event  
 - Saturday-Sunday main event)

Where is Shine - Eagle Eyrie Conference Center  
 Register online at - [wmuv.org/shine](http://wmuv.org/shine)



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

WMU ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 10

Villa Heights Baptist Church

Fellowship/Refreshments-5:30 PM

Pre-Service Music - 6:15 PM

Service Begins - 6:30 PM

Guest Speaker: Laura McDaniel  
 Executive Director/Treasurer of WMUV

If you would like to go, Call OLBC Church Office to ride the van and go as a group.

**Human Exploitation - Project Help**<sup>(sm)</sup>

Ways to Engage

Motivate others to join a focus group in your church to learn about trafficking and how to respond to the opportunities in your community.



There is still slavery in our world! If anyone thinks it's gone, think again. People need to be made aware of how people and the most vulnerable amongst us, the children, are still being used and abused through trafficking.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) is a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. They are not a government entity, law enforcement or an immigration authority. Call: 1-888-3737-888

**IN VIRGINIA:** Update from the Virginia General Assembly: both the House and Senate have passed similar Bills that require the Board of Education, with assistance from the Department of Social Services, to provide awareness and training materials for local school divisions on human trafficking, including strategies for the prevention of trafficking of children.

**Ideas and Resources to Join the Fight Against Modern Slavery :** There is no perfect list of things you can do to make America slavery-free, but here we offer a few specific ideas to help you create positive change where you live. Many more ideas to combat trafficking are found in chapter 10 of **Not in My Town**.

<http://wmuv.org/human-exploitation>