

Oak Level Baptist Church

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Volume 34

“SHARING THE JOURNEY”

August/September 2012

How's Your “Do”?

I appreciate a quote found in the book “*Shaped by God's Heart*” by Milfred Minatrea. He refers back many years to Antoine de Saint-Exupéry who wrote in the early twentieth century. “*If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea.*” Of course, his reference wasn't particularly to shipbuilding but to almost any task that benefits from copious amounts of passion in hearts of committed adventurers. It is especially relevant to adventurous Christ-followers seeking to obediently build up the body of Christ and minister in their own mission fields.

For many generations the attitude of most western-world Christians, that is those who have migrated out of old Christianized European countries to the New World, have increasingly developed a philosophy of religion that emphasizes the building of beautiful structures with all the conveniences available to them. For obvious reasons this has generated an institutional approach. Day-to-day ministry is defined as that which takes place inside the building for the good and comfort of the members with many and varied programs designed exclusively for Christians. Heavy emphasis is placed on the social aspect of community with many friendly gatherings and informative programs that seek to “*gather wood, divide the work, and give orders.*” There is no limit to food, fellowship, and sharing among the brethren. There are special trips to fun and interesting places, motivational speakers, wonderful music, and semi-annual rallies that are hoped to challenge and reinvigorate insiders who have become complacent.

The unfortunate side to all of this is that in the end, for all of the good intentions, things remain boringly the same resulting in alarming reports of how dead or dying and ineffective our churches have become at spreading the Good News and transforming lives through Christ.

Many older churches with their busy schedules of non-stop programs are in decline, and unless there is a major rethinking of what her purpose is, the church will continue to lose her impact and influence on the secular world that surrounds. As churches “circle the wagons” and work harder to protect themselves from contamination and change from outsiders and further their own comfort and Christian culture, those in deepest need of rescue and compassion will likely not find help from the one source that can help them most.

Every church I have ever been associated with would state that their purpose has something to do with sharing the Gospel with the lost and expanding the kingdom of God on earth. Though not always written out as a mission or vision statement, a high priority is that they covenant to love and care for one another. Obedience to the will and purpose of God is equally important, and a strong allegiance to the Holy Scriptures is an integral part of the whole mix. There is usually a strong and proud conviction in the air when they begin to talk about God's house being a house of prayer. These traits are healthy and biblically sound. However, if we want to be honest about our purpose it is more telling to take an inventory of our actions. The man who says his greatest priority is his family and yet never seems to find time to interact with his children or grow in his commitment to his wife is desperately off course. A business that claims to place the customer number one and yet does all it can to take money from the buyer while offering an inferior product with poor customer support will not be around for the duration.

Likewise, a church may make any number of spiritually sound statements and even fight to defend such opinions, but if a weekly inventory points out that there has been little or no contact with the community in which we live, total prayer offered in the “prayer house” can be counted in minutes, and activities and expenditures are almost entirely for the benefit and comfort of our members, then we should either restate our purpose so it agrees with our reality or redirect our efforts to agree with our statements. It was a wise old sage who pointed out that “*words are cheap.*” There are those in our congregations who have a passion for what is truly the mission at the heart of God. Let's not waste our time, energy, and money drumming up men and women to prop up self-serving programs and activities, nit picking the details of caring for our own ease and prosperity, and barking orders. Instead, let's remind one another that Jesus placed the emphasis on “*go and make disciples*”. We are to guide these adventurers to fan into flame the yearning passion for the “vast and endless sea” of wandering sheep without a shepherd. Let's make our “do” match our “say.”

Rev. Steve Manuel

August Birthdays

Aug. 1 Ken Meeks
Aug. 2 James I. Seay, Jr.
Aug. 4 Victoria Lynn Chaney
Aug. 09 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
Alexis Donovan
Sept. 06 Maury Miles, Jr.
Edna Seay
Shirley Spencer
Sept. 07 Brien Dyer
Kayla Prichard
Sept. 08 Ken Turner
Matthew Thompson
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. 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
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

Blue Ridge Nursing Ctr, P.O. Box 459, Stuart, VA 24171 Viola Turner Thelma Love

OAK LEVEL BAPTIST CHURCH 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The date of our 75th 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 75th anniversary. For more information, see Donna Winebarger or Martha Meeks or call the Church Office at 629-7973.



FLOWERS

We would like to thank the Oak Level Ruritan Club for the flowers placed in the Church Sanctuary on Sunday, June 17, 2012 in honor and memory of fathers, on Father's Day.

"BODY LIFE" GATHERING AUGUST 26 AT 12:30 P.M.

Body Life is a coming together of our congregation in conjunction with the work of our Pastor and Transition Team for the purpose of fellowship, worship, prayer, and study. These gatherings are important opportunities in the course of our ministry, because out of these special times we learn more about ourselves and how our church fits uniquely into God's plan and purpose. A light lunch will be provided, so you need bring nothing other than a willingness to share your thoughts and hopes regarding the life of our church. We will be encouraged as we gain insight and are challenged in our spiritual walk with Christ. Help us get the word out!

GOD IS LOVE!



Christian sympathy extended to Homer & Mary Hodges on the death of his sister, Ruby Hodges Weaver, who passed away Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Wilbern & Martha Sue Meeks on the death of Wilbern's nephew, Buddy L. Turner, who passed away on Friday, May 18, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Jessica Donavant on the death of her grandfather and Cierra and J.C. Underwood, on the death of their great-grandfather, William H. Franklin, who passed away Tuesday, May 29, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Esther Hanks and her family and friends on the death of her aunt, Mary Hanks Combs, who passed away Saturday, June 15, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Shelby Whitlow and her family and friends on the death of her husband, W.D. Whitlow, who passed away Tuesday, June 19, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Karen Reed and her family and friends on the death of her brother, David Delancy, who passed away on Sunday, July 08, 2012. Karen is the Ministry Assistant at the Henry County Baptist Association.

THANK YOU

Oak Level Baptist Church would like to thank Jesse Cannaday, Elmer Stone, Ben Morris, Homer Hodges, Garry Barrow, Ken Turner, and Addis Mabe for all their hard work cleaning out the weeds, bushes, and laying brick chips in the flower beds around the outside of the church. It looks beautiful and neat. It was very hard work and your participation is very much appreciated.

Dear Oak Level Baptist Church,
Thank you so much for the Jones Educational Scholarship that you have graciously given me. It will be a tremendous aid in paying for my attendance at VA Tech this fall. Bradley Turner

We want to thank you so much for your support with Shoe Box Ministry. It lets children and families know God cares through people and gifts. The need is great and we thank you again.

Phyllis Burnet, Piedmont Area Team

Ladies of Oak Level Baptist Church,
On behalf of our daughter, Denise, and our family, we thank you for your generous donation for the food package. It is a blessing that she will be able to order this package twice a year. Love and Prayers,
Denise, Addis & Barbara Mabe



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Chris Sink and Kasey Viars on the birth of their son, Nickolai Kermit Sink, who was born Sunday, May

27, 2012.



FORK MOUNTAIN REST HOME "FOURTH OF JULY" CELEBRATION



Under the direction of Betty Conner, an employee of Fork Mountain Rest Home, the residents decided to have a **Yard Sale** to raise money for a **Kentucky Fried Chicken dinner** on July 4th.

Preparations were made for advertising and signs were made by Ricky and Sue Seay. People and churches in the community were asked to donate articles to sell and for monetary donations. The response was just great and the yard sale was a huge success!. Special thanks goes to Pauline Martin who donated lots of items and stayed all day to help.

The Fourth of July was special and we were reminded how blessed we are as a nation to be able to celebrate our freedom. We started the day with lots of music and singing, especially the Patriotic Songs. We also recited The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, the Bible and the Christian Flag.

Dinner was served at 4:00 PM. We all enjoyed the extra crispy Kentucky Fried Chicken, mashed potatoes w/gravy, cold slaw, green beans (which were raised by Ivan Mason in his garden at the home). Ivan is a resident at FMRH. We also had biscuits and Betty Conner made banana pudding for desert. Drinks were provided by Jerry & Gaye Bryant.

After the meal, games were played with the residents led by Betty Conner. Prizes were awarded to the winners. It was a wonderful Fourth of July for the residents with many blessings. Oak Level Baptist Church has two resident members - Lillian Forbes and Diane Chitwood. Resident Golden Stone is the Mother of Elmer Stone. Thank you church members and the community for helping us at Fork Mountain have such a good time. The Lord has really blessed us all. Kay Harley & Betty Conner



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Oak Level Baptist Church is so pleased to welcome five new members to our church. They are:

- Cheryl Newman - joined June 10, 2012.
- Kimberly Wingfield - joined July 22, 2012
- Ryan Wingfield - joined - July 22, 2012
- Addis & Barbara Mabe - joined - July 22, 2012



God Moments:

shoes for shannon

They have blisters on their heels. Their shoes are too small, they wear them

without socks. When a Virginia Baptist volunteer team met 6 year old Gloria at Standing Rock Reservation, she had beautiful shoes: shiny, bright yellow, high-top sneakers with red laces. But Gloria couldn't attend their VBS every day because she had to share those shoes with her sister. The team became determined to take enough shoes for every child on the reservation. Thanks to the generosity of Virginia Baptists, last summer's team gave away almost 2,000 pairs of shoes! At Little Eagle, the team met Shannon Little Dog, a great big guy who came every day to the community center with only socks on his feet. H needed the one size of shoes they didn't have - size 17. They searched every store within 50 miles of the reservation and prayed that God would provide. And God did!! They found one pair of size 17 Nike shoes on sale! Shannon was overwhelmed and exclaimed, "I haven't had a pair of shoes that fit me in 10 years."




ALMA HUNT OFFERING
Emphasis September 9-16, 2012
OLBC Church Goal - \$1,000.00

School Supplies



Undies & Socks

We will be gathering School Supplies, packages of undies and socks (elementary school sizes) for several families. And of course for the Samaritans Purse Shoeboxes. Anything that you would like to donate can be left in the basket in the Church Foyer, marked WMU.

MEDIA

EXPLOITATION



Media Exploitation of children and families is the use of common media like television, video games, computers, music movies and magazines to convey negative information or images. This is a missional issue because overexposure to negative and violent messages can hinder the development and learning abilities of language skills. It can also cause loss of creative play, encourage poor eating habits, and reduce relationships with family members and friends.

God Moments:

— serving Bland County, VA and Beyond

Doing God's work silently and around Bland County, VA is how Dee Dee Hoosier describes the work she directs at The Bland Ministry Center. Their "quiet work" speaks volumes to thousands of families who have been served by this ministry over the years. Tough economic times have taken the center from providing food boxes to 5 families a week to at least 79 a week, which is considered a slow week. The food pantry isn't the only ministry of the center that is seeing increased traffic. The clothes closet helps many to clothe families so they can spend money on items such as food and medicine. In w011, their dental ministry also saw increases as 361 patients were served by 10 dental volunteers who make smiles a reality. There's no doubt that there's a loud message about God's love expressed through Virginia Baptists that is quietly, faithfully working through The Bland Ministry Center

MEETINGS

Aug. 09 - WMU Program - featuring Susan Lynch from Rehab's Rope.

Aug. 28 - WMU Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. - 9-16 - Ingathering of Alma Hunt Offering for State Missions

Engage



OAK LEVEL COMMUNITY DAY AT OAK LEVEL BAPTIST CHURCH

**EVERYTHING IS FREE
EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

Sponsored by Oak Level Baptist Church & The Oak Level Ruritan Club

7720 Oak Level Road

Bassett, VA 24055

276-629-7973

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 2012

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

ACTIVITIES



**FACE
PAINTING**

FOOD



FUN FOR ALL AGES

CRAFTS

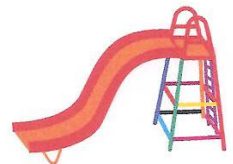
**BUNGEE
RUN**



**CLIMBING
WALL**

GAMES

SNO CONES



GIANT SLIDE