

# Oak Level Baptist Church

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“SHARING THE JOURNEY”

December 2012/January 2013

Volume 35

## Extraordinary Days

After coming to Christ as a teenager, I enjoyed the company of a godly elderly couple. Even after going off to college I would visit them when in from school, especially on Christmas Eve. As we visited we would read the Christmas story from Luke 2, and I would play the guitar and sing. The reading of that story has remained a Christmas Eve tradition ever since. It is so touching and moving as you consider the excitement taking place at the birth of a baby in a stable. A magnificent number of royal angels with clothing that seemed to light up the night sky announce the greatest news ever to a group of lowly shepherds. After the initial shock and fear subside, they are determined to make the journey to see first hand what the Lord has revealed to them on this most extraordinary day.

*"So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in a feeding box. When they had seen him, they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured these things and continued to think about them."*

The part of the story that says, *"But Mary treasured these things and continued to think about them,"* has always stuck with me. The King James says she *"kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."* She listened awestruck as the shepherds told what they had seen. It added to the word that God had privately given her and Joseph. A little later she would meet another group of men from another side of life—men of wealth, influence, and education. Their story agreed with all that she had seen and heard. And Mary continued to ponder those things.

She ponders this tiny, fragile bundle wrapped in bits of cloth lying in a feeding trough on a dark and chilly night. She ponders the young child growing up in her home as he plays with his brothers and sisters and begins to learn his father's trade in the carpenter's shop. She ponders these things as she discovers they have ridden off without her twelve year old after visiting the temple in the city. And when they rush back to find him, she ponders even further as she learns this young man has spent his time teaching the teachers! He's safe and sound, because his Father is watching over him as he is about His business.

Mary ponders all of those things that happen as she sees him leave home to begin a public ministry among every kind of person imaginable. He becomes a great teacher to thousands making the words of God become flesh. He touches the untouchable, speaks of the unheard, does the impossible, and reaches into the heart of mankind in a way never seen before or since. And Mary ponders all of these things.

And on another extraordinary day Mary ponders as she learns of her son's arrest, torture, and crucifixion. Almost alone, she ponders at the foot of a cross as his last breath is released and this life like no other grows silent in the dark of midday. For days she ponders as only a grieving mother can, but on the third day it seems that years of treasuring up all that Jesus had done and taught came together! Eye had not seen nor ear heard the wonders God had prepared for those who love Him...until now!

This Christmas, what will you and your family be pondering?

Rev. Steve Manuel

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Dec. 02 Trevor Nester  
 Sam Turner  
 Dec. 04 Mason Arrington  
 Joshua Howell  
 Dec. 07 Shirley Foley  
 Dodie McKee  
 Hilda Plaster  
 Jennifer R. Gary  
 Dec. 08 Boonie Hancock  
 Dec. 10 Kenneth Keen, Sr.  
 Greg Young  
 Dec. 11 Kelly S. George  
 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. 20 Brian Whitehead  
 Dec. 21 Bryan Young  
 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 Nathan Martin  
 Dec. 31 Roy Brown  
 Dwayne Hodges

**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  
 Jan. 10 Alma Edwards  
 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  
 Randy Prichard  
 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 Daniel Collins  
 Erin Forbes  
 Jan. 25 Chris Andrews  
 Jan. 28 Frances Barnes  
 Jan. 30 Lester Thompson  
 Geraldine Williams

**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**  
 Edna Fulcher Ashby - Room 267

**Fork Mountain Rest Home,**  
**2925 Fork Mtn. Rd. Rocky Mt, 24151**  
 Golden Stone \* Dianne Chitwood  
 Howard Hodges Hazel Sizemore  
 \*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

**Stanleytown Health Care**  
**240 Riverside Dr. Bassett, VA 24055**  
 Betty Ayers - 223  
 Arlene Harris - 217

**JN MEMORY**

**Fund**

**Name**

General Fund	Inez Metz
Miles	
World Hunger	Clyde Cahill



**LADIES FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON**

The Oak Level Ladies Fellowship will get together for fun and fellowship at the Bassett Country Club on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 at 11:30 AM. Reservations **MUST** be confirmed by Monday December 3. Please call Kay Harley (629-7602) or Sue Young (629-7973) if you plan to attend. If you need a ride, please meet at the church at 11:00 AM to ride the church van.



**FLOWERS**

Flowers placed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 2, 2012, are in loving memory of Jesse Hanks Cox on his birthday. They are given by his mother Esther Hanks, his sister, Shana, and family and friends.





Christian sympathy extended to David & Phyllis Brown and their family and friends on the death of David's sister, Betty Ann Brown Bolling, who passed away Monday October 8, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Audie & Regina Atkins on the death of her father and Arthur Foley, Nancy Bousman, and Eva Dale Scearce, on the death of their brother, Fred Junior Foley, who passed away Wednesday, October 10, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Cheryl Newman and her family and friends on the death of her aunt, Eula Belt of Kentucky.

Christian sympathy extended to Rev. Larry Cheek, pastor of First Baptist, Collinsville, on the death of his father, Eugene Cheek, who passed away Monday, October 15, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Gladys Estelle Wray Frith, who passed away Thursday, October 25, 2012. She was a Charter Member of Oak Level Baptist Church.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Raymond Lee Gilley, who passed away Monday, October 29, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to the B.J. and Amanda Woodward on the death of B.J.'s mother, Martha Robers Handy, who passed away Tuesday, October 30, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Wanda Adams Johnson and her family and friends on the death of her husband, Jerry Lynn Johnson, who passed away Tuesday, October 30, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Esther Hanks and her family on the death of her uncles, Dean Larrowe, who passed away Wednesday, October 31, 2012 and his brother, Harace Larrowe, who passed away on Saturday, November 02, 2012. Both men were from Galax, VA.

Christian sympathy extended to Missy & Bruce Thompson, Meagan and Matthew Thompson, Tammy Franklin and their family and friends on the death of Missy' & Tammy's mother and Meagan and Matthew's grandmother, Sally C. Foster, who passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, November 22, 2012. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Christian sympathy extended to Rev. Bonnylee Witt and her family and friends on the death of her mother, Mary Witt, who passed away Thursday, November 22, 2012.

### THANK YOU

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, visits, and concerns that were sent my way during my recent eye surgery. I appreciated everything was very much. Edna Amos



## YOUTH NOTES

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**December 01** - Bassett Christmas Parade - 2:00 p.m.

**December 08** - Christmas Caroling with Adults - 5:00 p.m.

**December 16** - Angel Tree Program & Christmas Program at 6 p.m. at the church. Light refreshments will be served afterward in the Church Fellowship Hall. A "Special Guest" is scheduled to arrive from the North Pole.

**December 23** - Children's Choir will sing.

**December 30-31** - "Winterfest" at Liberty University.

### THANK YOU TO YOUTH & YOUTH LEADERS

A Special Thank You to our young people who went Trick or Treating on Saturday, October 28th at Fork Mountain Rest Home. Treats were exchanged and they did such a great job making the people happy with their singing, treats and lots of hugs. We also appreciate our leaders Missy, Sherry and Katina. Keep up the good work with our young people.

The Youth (along with the Youth Leaders) prepared a Thanksgiving Meal for the church on Sunday, November 18th. They did a wonderful job and the turkey, side dishes and desserts were delicious. Thank you Youth for including the church in your Thanksgiving! We appreciate it so much.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



The Inclement Weather Policy for Oak Level Baptist Church is that if the Henry County Schools and/or Franklin County Schools are canceled due to inclement weather, there will be no Thursday evening activities at the church. For announcements concerning Sunday Morning Services, listen to B99 FM radio or watch TV Stations, WDBJ, Channel 7 or WSLS, Channel 10, for possible church cancellations.



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) to request we add you to the list. Also, check out our website at [www.oaklevelbaptist.org](http://www.oaklevelbaptist.org) to find news and events going on at church and the community.



**ALMA HUNT OFFERING**

Annual Goal - \$1,000.00  
Total to date: \$1055.00

**We surpassed our goal!  
Thank you to all who gave to  
The Alma Hunt Offering**

Give to the  
CBF *Offering for*  
GLOBAL MISSIONS 

**OLBC Annual Goal - \$3,000.00  
Total to date - \$2730.00**  
Thank you to all who gave to the  
CBF Global Missions

**WHAT IS THE CBF OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS?**

Simply stated, the CBF Offering is the primary giving channel for supporting field personnel and their ministries. It is a year round campaign that begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30 of each year in which churches and individuals are invited to participate in God's mission by making a financial gift.

**WHAT DOES THE CBF OFFERING DO?**

The CBF Offering supports all CBF field personnel, including those who also receive funding from other sources. For many CBF field personnel, the CBF Offering pays their salary, benefits, ministry and operating expenses. All field personnel receive support from the CBF Offering for health insurance, technology, travel and member care and wellness services.

**WHY IS THE CBF OFFERING IMPORTANT?**

If you want CBF to send field personnel to serve among the most neglected, you should not only personally support the CBF Offering for Global Missions but encourage others in your congregation to do so as well. This year's national goal of \$4.8 million is the amount needed to support the existing field personnel. If you would like CBF to increase the size of its missions force, consider how you and your church can make a gift that is larger than in years past. The CBF Offering is not "over and above" the CBF Global Missions budget. It is the PRIMARY way field personnel are funded.



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

**TOTAL BOXES RECEIVED - 15**

Thank you to all who prepared boxes for  
Operation Christmas Child.

**FLUVANNA CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
HYGIENE PACKETS**

**TOTAL PACKETS RECEIVED - 22**

Thank you to all who donated the hygiene packets

**WMU Calendar**

**December 2012**

**02-09 - Emphasis for Global Missions  
18- WMU Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

**January 2012**

**22- WMU Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

**Engage**