

# Oak Level Baptist Church

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

Volume 38

SHARING THE JOURNEY

December/January 2015

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## Stepping Back in Time

The shepherds who watched their flock the night of Christ's birth were well acquainted with the night sky. Two thousand years ago the stars shone much more brightly than we have ever seen in our lifetimes. There were no glaring street lamps and neon signs to lighten the night, no jet contrails to blur the transparent heavens, nor was there a hint of the thick atmospheric pollution that today clouds even daytime skies. The darkest night was awash with the bright glory of God's magnificent universe. Thousands upon thousands of brilliant points of light speckled the canopy, and it was indeed a sight to behold.

On a particularly clear and pleasant night the shepherds were standing guard over their sheep and talking in quiet tones of what was going on in their lives. Certainly some were stretched out on the hillside entertained by the light show overhead. As shooting stars occasioned across the sky seeming to connect the twinkling starry specks and the fuzzy white patches of distant nebulae and great clusters in our own Milky Way, there were cries of wonder and awe as they witnessed the result of God's creative hand. They beheld the same nightly wonders much as we do today when we step outside and peer into the evening.

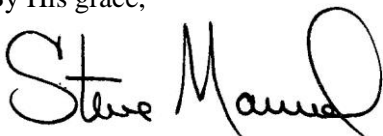
But on that night other uncommon visitors materialized. An angel of the Lord appeared, and the glory of the Lord shone around the shepherds. It was enough to frighten them out of their skins, but the first words of the divine messenger were, *"Don't be afraid, because I bring you good news of great joy."* And then an army of the heavenly host also appeared praising God and smiling on mankind. What a blessed night!

As you step outside on a cold clear night this month, take time to look overhead and study the stars. Get away from the blinding artificial lights, look to the east, and journey back 2000 years. In the stillness you can hear the gasp of the shepherds as they behold the glory about them, and you can share in those first exciting moments when God's messenger announced that His Anointed One, Christ the Lord, had stepped out of eternity into humanity for a few precious moments that would change us forever. No other news could be so good, and nothing else in all of creation could bring this kind of peace to men and women on earth.

Prepare for the New Year aware that whatever challenges, trials, questions, or blessings, God remains on His throne, and because of Jesus you may experience His peace.

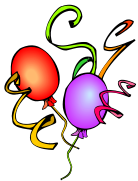
Glory to God in the highest!

By His grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Manna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning.

### 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 Rodgers  
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 Kyrie Jo Turner  
Lori Keen Pruitt  
Jan. 12 Lewis Turner  
Grover Harrison  
Jan. 14 Carlos Coleman  
James Wray  
Gloria Keen  
Jan. 16 Ryan McKee  
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

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

\* Dianne Chitwood \*Lillian Forbes  
\*Wanda Stone Hazel Sizemore  
Howard Hodges

**Live Laugh & Love Home Care**  
**2634 Fork Mtn. Rd. Rocky Mt, 24151**

\*Pauline Martin

**Friendship Retirement Community**  
**327 Hersberger Rd. NW, Roanoke, VA 24102**

Albert Meeks

**Golden Living Center,**  
**1607 Spruce St. Martinsville, VA, 24112**

\*Glen Young

**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 Ctr.**  
**240 Riverside Drive, Bassett, VA 24055**

Blandean Akers - 9 Grace Mullins - 12

**The Laurel, 72 Chatham Business Park Dr.**  
**Pittsboro, NC 27312**

\*Lovelene S. Lewis

**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 Betty Jo Foley and family on the death of her cousin, Larry Hodges, who passed away on Sunday, September 26, 2014.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Peggy Morris and family on the death of her aunt, Mary Haynes, who passed away on Tuesday, September 28, 2014.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Margaret McMillian and family on the death of her husband, Dr. Richard Minear, who passed away on Monday, October 6, 2014.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Shirley Ramsey Gilbert and family on the death of her great-grandson, Konner Sturgill, who passed away on Tuesday, October 7, 2014.

Sincere Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Thelma Love who passed away Monday, October 27, 2014. Thelma was Benny and Roger Young's aunt.

Sincere Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Donnie Wayne Meeks who passed away Sunday, November 2, 2014. He was Wilbern Meeks' nephew.

Heartfelt Christian sympathy is extended to Danny, Sherry, and Rosa Stone and family on the death of their loved one and OLBC member, Norman Young. Norman passed away Monday, November 17, 2014.



### WITH SYMPATHY

Sincere Christian sympathy is extended to John Richardson and family on the death of his wife, Yvonne, who passed away Thursday, November 20, 2014.

### THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for their cards, visits, food, and prayers during my recent recuperation after my surgery. Your faithfulness and kindness meant so much.

Ethel Jones

Thank you for the cards, food, and prayers we received recently. It meant so much.

Ersie Hurd & Dolores Thompson



Everyone is invited to a Baby Shower for our member, April Draper on **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** from 2 - 4 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall.

April is expecting a baby girl in February. The family and OLBC WMU are hosting this event.



**DATES & TIMES FOR YOUTH MEETINGS, PROJECTS & FUNDRAISERS**

**December Meetings**

**Sunday, Nov. 30 - Decorate Christmas tree and practice for Christmas program  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, Dec. 7 - Practice for Christmas program  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, Dec. 14 - Practice for Christmas program  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**January Meetings**

**Sunday, Jan. 11 & 25 - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**



**SANTA'S CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP**

The Children's Sunday School department is requesting items to be donated for Santa's

Christmas Workshop on Sunday, December 21. The Children will shop for Christmas gifts for their parents during the Sunday School hour. Please donate both men and women gifts so the children will have a good selection to choose from. For more information, see Peggy Morris.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

The Church Council will meet Wednesday, January 7, at 6:00 p.m. Come prepared to plan events for the church calendar to June 2015. 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.

**ANGEL TREE SERVICE**



An Angel Tree Service will be held on Sunday, December 21, 2014 in the Church Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is in the Church Foyer if you would like a loved one remembered on the Angel Tree.

**Christmas Memories**

The Youth Christmas Program, "Christmas Memories," will be held on Sunday, December 21, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served after the program in the Church Fellowship Hall.



Thank you to everyone who donated, prepared, and help ship the **27 shoe boxes** for Operation Christmas Child with Samaritan

Purse. Your generosity will put smiles on children's faces this Christmas season.

**May Christmas blessings brightly shine on those you love and you, and may the special love of Christ be with you all year through.**

**Under which king did Nehemiah return to rebuild Jerusalem?**

- A. Artaxerxes, king of Persia
- B. Cyrus, king of Persia
- C. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon
- D. Sennacherib, king of Assyria

(Answer on Birthday page)



**HAPPY 16<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, MEGAN THOMPSON**

Let's Celebrate! Join us for a "Sweet Sixteen" birthday party in honor of Megan Thompson 6:00 - 10:00 pm on Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at the Oak Level Ruritan Building. Everyone is invited.



Don't forget to keep Christ in Christmas. Set aside a special time to read the Christmas story in Luke 1:5-56 through 2:1-20.



**WMU MEETINGS**

**Tuesday - December 30 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday - January 27 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Campaign140**

**WMUV Celebrating 140 Years  
Through December 31, 2014**

Born in 1874 to support missions at home and around the world, WMUV continues to inspire and equip women to influence the world for Christ, affirming Christ's call on a woman's life, missional response to the world's needs, and the development of missional leaders.

Drawing from the legacy left to us by the women who went before us, we embark upon the goal of "paying-as-we-go", as we set in motion the renovation projects needed to maintain the high level of conferencing and camping needs at CrossRoads.

Prayfully consider your tax-deductible financial gift to WMUV of \$140.00 or more. You can donate online at [wmuv.org](http://wmuv.org) or send gifts to Campaign140, WMUV, 2828 Emerywood Parkway, Henrico, VA 23294. Make checks payable to WMUV.

Give to the  
CBF *Offering for*  
GLOBAL MISSIONS

**OLBC 2014 Goal - \$4,000.00**  
**Offering Received - \$1,521.00**

When you give to the CBF Offering for Global Missions, you help change lives around the world.

Special emphasis **December 7 - 14, 2014**

Please plan to give to this offering during this time and help us reach our goal for 2014!



We're so excited about Mission Madness 2015, a weekend retreat for youth groups interested in mission service, worship, fellowship, and fun!

This year, Mission Madness will be in three locations, to give you more options and schedule flexibility.

Here are the 2015 dates:

April 17-19: Charlottesville, Virginia

April 24-26: Suffolk, Virginia

May 1-3: Chester, Virginia

There is limited space available so be sure to register today to lock in your first choice location. Visit [www.missionmadness.me](http://www.missionmadness.me) to download registration forms and view more information about the weekends. Contact Mark Snipes, [msnipes@cbfva.org](mailto:msnipes@cbfva.org) for questions or more information.



About 20 of our members came out on Oct 11th to participate in the projects. The

guys replaced the ramp for the Randall Woods family in Fork Mountain. Ladies assembled and bagged the 30 hygiene bags for the homeless in Martinsville and Henry County. More of our members assembled and delivered approximately 40 meals to our local shut-ins and others in need.

One of the HCBA projects was to offer a \$2 discount on gas at several stations in the area. About 100 cars came through the Shell station in Collinsville from 11 AM to 1 PM. It brought a lot of smiles to people faces and lifted their day.

Thank you for donating money to the "toolbox", donating items for hygiene bags, donating and supporting the Spaghetti Dinner that the Youth put together to raise money for OAIM. We still have a few T-Shirts left. Pick one up for use next time!



# December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m.  PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Baby Shower for April Draper 2 – 4 pm  
<b>7</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am  Youth Mtg. 3:00 - 5:00 pm Christmas Program Practice	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Deacons' Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	<b>10</b> PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am  Youth Mtg. 3:00 - 5:00 pm Christmas Program Practice	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am "Santa's Christmas Workshop" Worship Service – 11:00 am  Angel Tree Service – 5:00 pm "Christmas Memories" 5:30 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <u>NO</u> PTS Meeting  Bousman Family Fellowship Hall	<b>25</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am   Pennies for the Precious	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> WMU Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>31</b> PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.			

Deacon of the Month – Donna Winebarger

Counters of the Month – Lee Pettit and Shirley Gilbert

# January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>  Church Office Closed New Year's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Communion Sunday Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Deacons' Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	<b>7</b> Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m.  Church Council 6 PM  PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Community Meal
<b>11</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am  Youth Mtg. 3:00 - 5:00 pm 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am  Youth Mtg. 3:00 - 5:00 pm   Pennies for the Precious	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  WMU Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>28</b>  PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

Deacon of the Month – Brenda Ferguson

Counters of the Month – Ben Morris and Homer Hodges