

Oak Level Baptist Church

7720 Oak Level Road Bassett, VA 24055

(276) 629-7973 olbc@comcast.net

www.OakLevelBaptist.org

Volume 43

SHARING THE JOURNEY

December/January 2020

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Let us prepare our hearts for this Christmas season and for 2020. Take time to rejoice in the beauty and wonder of Christmas. It is so important to keep Christ in Christmas as we sing, celebrate, worship, exchange gifts, pray, eat and travel.

My prayer is that you will enjoy this Christmas season with a heart full of joy and peace. Pause to pray for others and their needs. Take time to listen to and encourage someone who is lonely and depressed during this holy season. Share your faith in Christ with others as you enjoy this wonderful season. You will be blessed as you share hope and peace with someone soon.

Participate as much as you can in the Sundays of Advent. The first Sunday of this Advent season is December 1. Ask the Lord how you can use your gifts and talents for His glory each day. Invite a friend or neighbor to church soon. Tell family members and friends that you love them often.

Sunday, December 15, is our special Angel Tree service. Plan to come at 11:00 am to be a part of this meaningful service. We miss members of our church family and loved ones as we remember each one and pray for each other.

Sunday, December 22, is a celebration of "A Christmas to Remember." Please note the time change for this service which is 10:30 am. You are encouraged to write your favorite Christmas memory and/or tradition to share with the church family and guests. Please give these to me or leave in the box located on my office door.

Remember 2020 is the beginning of a new year and a new decade. Psalm 118:24 is a great verse to read and to remember often. The year 2020 is also a leap year. How will you spend your extra twenty-four hours from the Lord? Let us live each moment wisely in service to Him.

Enjoy a wonderful Christmas, making many precious memories. May the New Year be blessed in many ways for you and your service to Jesus Christ. Please be safe as you travel during the holidays.

Love and blessings for a joyous, peaceful Christmas,

Pastor Joe

Luke 2:11; Psalm 90:12



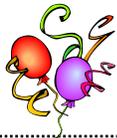
"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Isaiah 9: 6-7 (KJV)

December Birthdays

Dec. 04 Joshua Howell
Dec. 06 William Griffith
Dec. 07 Shirley Foley
Dodie McKee
Dec. 10 Kenneth Keen, Sr.
Dec. 12 Homer Hodges
Dec. 13 Megan Keen
Dec. 15 Peggy Morris
Dec. 16 Ethel Jones
Chelsea Thompson
Dec. 17 Isaiah LaBounty
Dec. 18 Betsy Henny
Jean Thomas
Dec. 22 Ira Seay
Dec. 24 Howard Webb
Dec. 25 Barbara Slate
Sue Seay
Dec. 26 Charlotte LaBounty
Dec. 29 Kelly Gray Conner
Megan Thompson
Dec. 30 Roy Brown



January Birthdays

Jan. 2 Shirley C. Young
Heaven Brown
Jan. 5 Ben Morris
Jan. 8 Donna Winebarger
Jan. 10 Ann Stone
Hayden Robertson
Jan. 11 Lori Keen Pruitt
Kyrie LaBounty
Jan. 12 Lewis Turner
Grover Harrison
Jan. 14 Carlos Coleman
James Wray
Gloria Keen
Jan. 16 Ryan McKee
Hannah Glass
Jan. 17 Lance Frith
Jan. 18 Kelly Webb
Jan. 19 Avis Gray
Tommy Thompson
Jacob Gray
Jan. 20 Eva Dale Searce
Jan. 21 Amy F. Jarrell
Heidi Hodges
Jan. 28 Frances Barnes
Jan. 30 Geraldine Williams

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Blue Ridge Rehab Center, 300 Blue Ridge St., Martinsville, VA 24112

*Avis Gray - Room 364

*Shirley Tobler - Room 341

*Bill Young - Room 264

Sue Meeks - Room 213

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

*Wanda Stone

King's Grant, 350 King's Way Road, Martinsville, VA 24112

Grady Snead - Room 312



THANK YOU

Thank each of you for your cards, visits, and most of all prayers. I appreciate each of you and the love you show. Brenda Ferguson

BASSETT CHRISTMAS PARADE

Children, youth, and their parents are invited to meet at the church at 1:00 pm on **Saturday, December 7**, to go to the Bassett Christmas parade. After the parade we will go caroling and deliver cakes to shut-ins. After caroling, plan to meet back at the church fellowship hall for a time of fellowship and pizza!

ANGEL TREE SERVICE

An Angel Tree Service will be held on **Sunday, December 15**, during the regular worship time. If you would like a loved one remembered on the Angle Tree that has passed since last year, please fill out the sheet located on the foyer table.

A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 10:30 AM

You are invited to share your favorite Christmas memory or tradition during this special service. Please let Pastor Joe know if you plan to share during this time by completing the half-page sheet located on the table in the church foyer and return it to Pastor Joe. Invite family members and friends to come with you. Bring your favorite finger foods to share following this special service in the church fellowship hall.

SERVICE CONTRACTS

The Cleaning Service Contract and the Lawn Maintenance Contract are scheduled to be renewed after the first of the year. If there is anyone who is interested in presenting a bid for these services, you can pick up a copy of the job description and agreement from the church office. Please give your bid in a sealed envelope to Jesse Cannaday, member of the Building and Grounds Committee, by **Sunday, December 15, 2019**. No other bids will be accepted after this date.



The church secretary will be out of the office the week of Christmas. If you have any items for the December 22 and December 29 bulletins, please have that information to her by **Wednesday, December 18th**. Also, please note that the church office will be closed **New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1st**.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will meet **Wednesday, January 1, 2020** at 5:30 p.m. Come prepared to plan events for the church calendar to June 2020. 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.



WMU MEETINGS

Tuesday - December 17 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday - January 21 - 6:30 p.m.

Little is Much when God is in it (Matthew 14:17). Just like 5 small loaves and 2 fish could feed 5000 when we each give a little then many can be reached. **THANK YOU** for giving lots of times and in many different ways. Here are just a few results of that giving:

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions! We collected **\$850** of the \$900 goal.



Thank you to everyone who donated, prepared, and help ship the **40 shoe boxes** for Operation Christmas Child with Samaritan

Purse. Your generosity will put smiles on children's faces this Christmas season. We will continue to collect items throughout 2020 again. Below is a monthly list for your consideration.

- | | | | |
|------|---|-----|----------------|
| JAN | Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Socks, Underwear | APR | Combs, Brushes |
| FEB | Stuffed Animals | JUN | Girl Toys |
| MAR | Soap, Washcloths | AUG | Accessories |
| MAY | Toothbrushes | OCT | Monetary Gift |
| JUL | Boy Toys | | |
| SEPT | School Supplies | | |



OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS

OLBC 2019 Goal - \$2,000.00
Offering Received - \$1,305.00

Special "Share Abundant Life" emphasis will be
December 1 -8, 2019

WMUV inspires and equips women to influence the world for Christ.

PICK ME UP SPA DAY
CURE FOR AFTER HOLIDAY BLUES

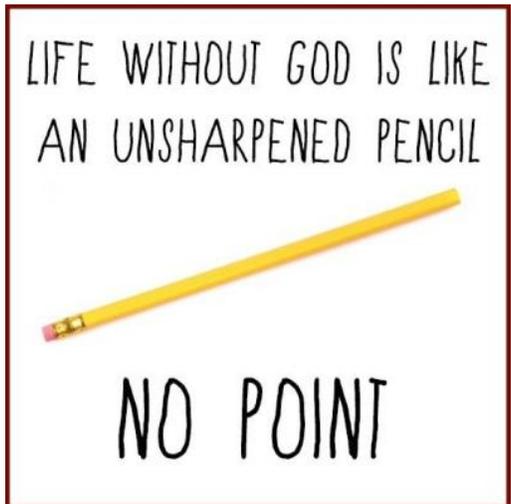
All ladies, all ages are invited for a time of fun and pampering on **Saturday, January 11, 2020 at 10 am till 12 noon**. We'll be making a hand scrub and lotion. A light lunch will be provided. If bad weather that day, an alternate date will be February 15.

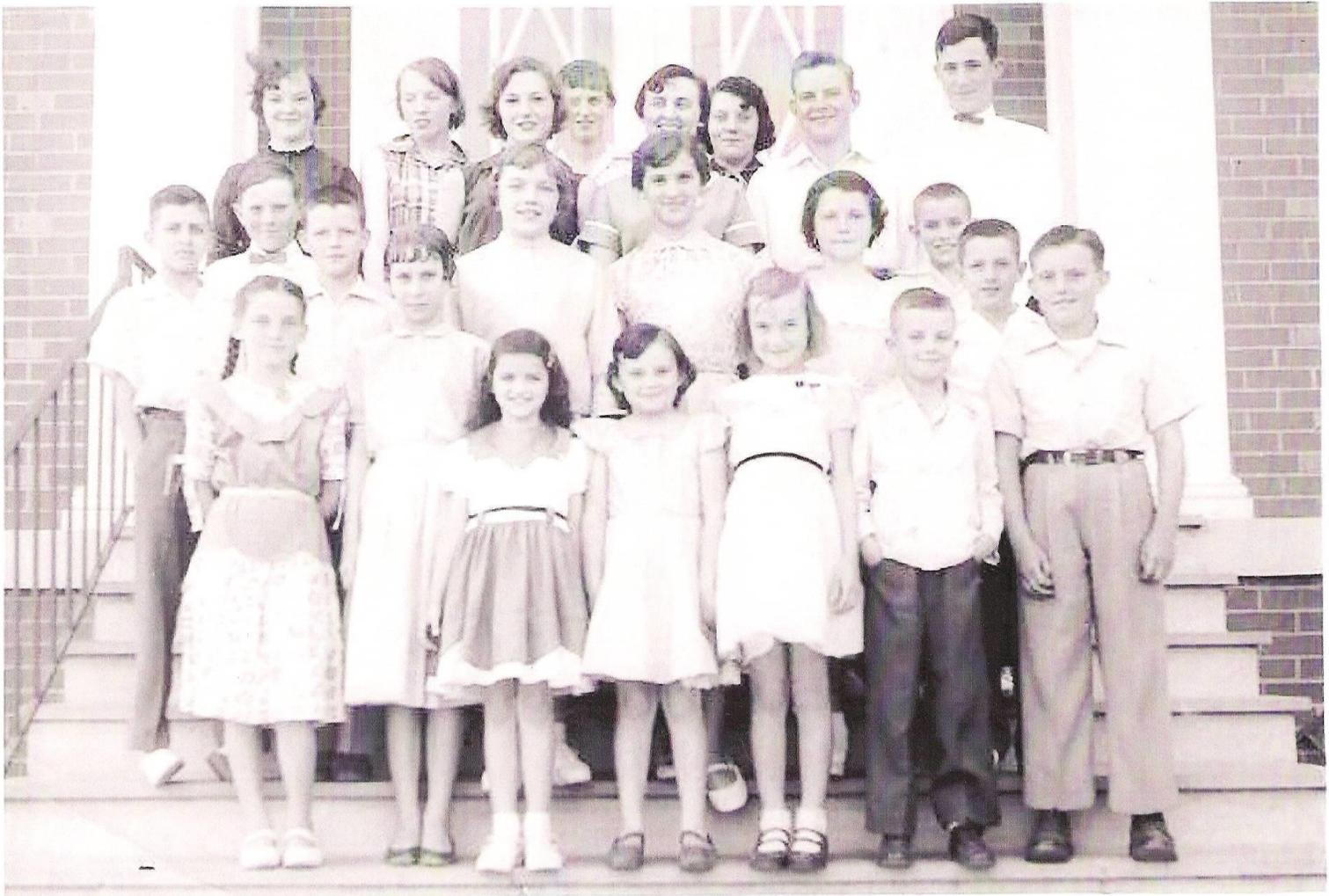
ENTERING HEAVEN

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates. "In honor of this holy season," Saint Peter said, "You must each possess something that symbolizes Christmas to get into heaven." The first man fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. "It represents a candle," he said. "You may pass through the pearly gates," Saint Peter said. The second man reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, "They're bells." Saint Peter said, "You may pass through the pearly gates." The third man started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's glasses. Saint Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, "And just what do those symbolize?" The man replied, "They're Carol's."



We give gifts to each other at this time of year, but whose party is it really? During all the hustle and pomp, remember who Christmas is celebrating. Draw closer to Christ this holy season. Remind others that **Jesus Is the Reason!**





A TIME IN HISTORY

Old pictures bring back fond memories of special events that happen in our lives. On April 21-23, 1955, Rev. Richard O'Conner from South Carolina, assisted by Rev Louis O'Conner, who was the pastor at Oak Level Baptist, were holding a revival at Oak Level Baptist Church. A Spiritual Blessing took place during the revival as twenty-three young people made their decisions for Christ.

These new Christians were baptized by Pastor Louis O'Conner on May 8, 1955, at Fieldale Baptist Church. The young ladies were asked to wear white dresses and the young men to wear white shirts. Transportation to the church was provided by family members and by members of the church. The picture above show the twenty-three people in front of Fieldale Baptist Church.

- First Row (from left)-** Diane Martin, Judy Spencer, Phyllis Coleman, Mary Frances (Molly) Stone, Nancy Stone, David Thornton, Clarence Mason.
- Second Row –** Ralph Emberson, Jesse Luther Ferguson, Bobby Cannaday, Lilly Frances Snead, Linda Miles, Donna Cannaday, Bobby Young, Benny Young,
- Third Row –** Shirley Stone, Erma Wray, Margaret McMillan, Peggy Miles, Temple Miles, Mary Alice Ferguson, Cecil Stone, James Irvin Ferguson.

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Choir Practice – 12:30 pm Deacons’ Mtg. - 5:00 p.m.	2	3	4 Men’s Breakfast 7:30 a.m. PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	5	6	7 Children , Youth & Parents Bassett Parade – leave at 1:00 pm Deliver Cakes and go caroling then Pizza at church
CBF Offering Emphasis – Share Abundant Life- December 1 - 8						
8 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Choir Practice – 12:30 pm Ingathering of Missions Offering	9	10	11 Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.	12	13	14
15 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Angel Tree Service Choir Practice – 12:30 pm	16	17 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	18 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	19	20	21
22 “A Christmas to Remember” Service – 10:30 am Finger foods following service  Pennies for the Precious	23	24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26 Church Secretary on vacation	27	28
29 Sunday School – 9:45 am Adult classes meet in FH Worship Service – 11:00 am Choir Practice – 12:30 pm Pastor Joe on Vacation	30	31 Church Secretary on vacation				

Deacon of the Month – Donna Winebarger

Counters of the Month – Ben Morris & Lee Pettit

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Church Council 5:30 PM PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m. New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2	3	4
5 Communion Sunday Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Choir Practice – 12:30 pm Deacons' Mtg. - 5:00 p.m.	6	7	8 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	9	10	11 Pick Me Up Spa Day for ALL Ladies 10 AM - Noon (alternate date in case of snow – February 15)
12 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Choir Practice – 12:30 pm	13	14	15 Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.	16	17	18
19 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Choir Practice – 12:30 pm Newsletter Info Due	20	21 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	22 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	23	24	25
26 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Choir Practice – 12:30 pm  Pennies for the Precious	27	28	29 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	30	31	

Deacon of the Month – Lance Frith

Counters of the Month – Donna Winebarger & Nancy Turner