

# Oak Level Baptist Church

7720 Oak Level Road Bassett, VA 24055

(276) 629-7973 [olbc@comcast.net](mailto:olbc@comcast.net)

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

Volume 39

SHARING THE JOURNEY

February/March 2015

## The Adventure of Change

According to Webster, change means to make different in some particular, to transform, to give a different position, course, or direction to, to replace with another, to switch, to undergo a modification of, or to put fresh clothes or covering on.

We are always changing in thousands of ways we might not even be aware of or give a second thought to. Age brings change. Circumstances create change. Relationships change. Our bodies and health change. We change where we live, what we drive, how we adorn our homes, and technology constantly introduces all sorts of change to our lives, whether we want it or not.

Interestingly, we hardly give a thought to most change that takes place, but in church life, many will fight against change with all their being. They struggle to adjust to minor things such as room decor and furnishings, but that pales in comparison to the resistance felt when a new order of worship, music, or worship hour is introduced. Great battles have erupted over these small changes that have ripped churches apart destroying their witness and ministry in the community.

The Christian experience should always be an adventure where we not only expect change but willingly embrace and celebrate it. Jesus brought a message that was all about change. His message upset the dead religious leaders and their manner of worship as He preached from city to city. The multitudes came to hear a man speak who spoke as no one had spoken before. They were attracted to His vibrant and exciting message of good news. It was about change.

As the early preachers, pastors, and missionaries obeyed the Lord's command to be His witnesses, they carried this exciting message to the ends of the earth, and change was found everywhere. It was because of the vitality of the message that the gospel so rapidly spread throughout the nations. No matter the culture, customs, language, or experience of the listeners, they all were changed, transformed, into something pleasing and acceptable to God. This was not a cookie cutter faith. The gospel message was always the same, but the lives it penetrated were as diverse as Eskimos are from sub-Saharan tribesmen. There are many expressions of the same faith, and in every case people are called to change.

We are grateful that God has directed a new pastor and his family to Oak Level who are not afraid of great and many changes in their lives. They arrive excited to serve and love our congregation and community. They also arrive expecting an adventure filled with change. In the months ahead our church will continue to actively pursue those without a Shepherd who live nearby, and we desire that our attitude will be one that prays, "*Lord, not my will but Yours be done.*" We must embrace whatever adjustments or changes are needed to obey Jesus' command to go, tell, and make disciples. To refuse to adjust will mean stagnation and eventual death for our church. Never forget that if we continue to do things like we've always done them, then we'll continue to get what we've always gotten. It is insane to keep doing the same thing over and over again and expect different results. It will not happen, and we waste our lives hoping otherwise.

Barbara and I are so thankful for the change that the Lord brought to our lives three and a half years ago as we agreed to walk with the folks at Oak Level for a brief time in order to minister and experience God's goodness. We have no idea where He will lead us in 2015 and beyond, but we are confident that through change He will bring us adventure and blessing, just as He has these last forty years. Please know that you are etched in our hearts, and we will pray for you and desire to know how God uses you to honor Himself. Thank you for allowing us to share in word and music. Thank you for walking with us through some deep valleys.

Allow God to draw you into the adventure He has prepared for you. Make those changes and adjustments necessary so that Oak Level Baptist Church will not be a museum to the past but a bridge to the future. There are souls yet to reach, Christians who need to be discipled, and glorious opportunities to experience God as you join Him in His unique work. In all that you say and do, seek to honor Him, glorify Jesus, and build up this unique body of believers known as Oak Level Baptist Church. God bless you all!

By His grace,

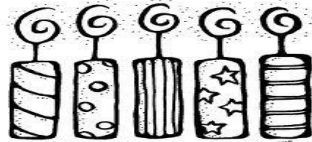
Steve & Barbara

### February Birthdays

Feb. 1 Jon Mark Atkins  
Feb. 2 Joe Glass  
Feb. 5 Tena B. Cassady  
Feb. 6 Holly Thompson  
Feb. 8 Dianne Chitwood  
Sara Seay  
Feb. 10 John K. Ramsey  
Feb. 12 Betty Metz  
Feb. 13 Sheila Ramsey  
Feb. 14 Martha Sue Meeks  
Feb. 15 Roger Woods  
Feb. 16 Jean Martin  
Feb. 17 Lucy Atkins  
Wanda Stone  
Feb. 18 Sara Gill  
Martha Jane Gunter  
Feb. 19 Debra Workinger  
Cierra Underwood  
Feb. 20 Josephine Ferguson  
Marvin Seay  
Feb. 24 Amy Lawson  
Feb. 25 Arthur Foley  
Linda McMillan  
Feb. 26 Mildred Ramsey  
Feb. 27 H. L. Snead  
Feb. 29 Jacob Glass

### March Birthdays

Mar. 2 Glen Young  
Mar. 4 Jim Thomasson  
Mary Carter  
Brandi Taylor  
Mar. 8 Janet Branscome  
Mar. 10 Kevin Atkins  
Mar. 12 Joe McMillan  
Mar. 17 Al Harley  
Mar. 18 Katina B. Pettit  
Mar. 20 Jamie Brown  
Kim Glass  
Mar. 21 Mischelle Carter  
Roger Young  
Mar. 23 Sommer Carter  
Janice Ramsey  
Mar. 25 Lee W. Pettit  
Mar. 26 Lee Boswell  
Mar. 28 Shannon Wright  
Sue Young  
Mar. 29 James Edward Joyce



### WITH SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy is extended the family and friends of Meleia Padraza who passed away on Thursday, December 4, 2014. She was the niece of Wanda Stone.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to Esther Hanks, her family and friends on the death of her mother, Virginia Hanks. Mrs. Hanks passed away on Wednesday, January 7, 2015.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Alvin and Vivian Ratliff, their family and friends on the death of his brother, J. C. Ratliff. Mr. Ratliff passed away on Saturday, January 17, 2015.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Lillian Forbes, who passed away Tuesday, January 20, 2015. Lillian was a long-time member of Oak Level Baptist Church and will be missed by all.



### WELCOME NEW PASTOR & FAMILY



Let's fill the Glasses' kitchen - every inch. Will make cooking and cleaning such a cinch!

Please join us as we welcome Joe, Kim, Hannah, and Jacob to Oak Level Baptist Church with an old fashioned pounding on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. Help stock their pantry with staples such as flour, sugar, salt, pasta, and cleaning supplies.

### 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 \*Wanda Stone  
Hazel Sizemore Howard Hodges

Live Laugh & Love Home Care  
2634 Fork Mtn. Rd. Bassett, VA 24055  
\*Pauline Martin

Friendship Manor  
327 Hersberger Rd. NW, Roanoke, VA 24102  
\*Edna Amos 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  
\*Lovylene S. Lewis

Trinity Nursing Health/Rehab, Hillsville, VA  
24343  
Arnold Hanks (Father of Esther Hanks)  
Carrie Mae Harold (Aunt of Brenda Ferguson)



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7th!



## JONES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Through the generosity of Inez and Casey Jones, assets have been set aside by Oak Level Baptist Church to provide scholarships not to exceed \$2,000.00 to students attending institutions of higher learning.

Beneficiaries of the fund shall be limited to active members of Oak Level Baptist Church and their immediate families, children, grandchildren, step children, etc. The applicants must also be a verifiable **active** member of a church. If you would like to apply, please call or e-mail the **Church Office** for an application. The deadline to receive completed applications is May 1, 2015.

## COMMUNITY MEAL

The Community Meal is our church's opportunity to reach out into the community by: visiting with our members that are not able to get out regularly; providing a meal to some in the community that are in need; and providing a meal for some that just have a hard time fixing a meal due to health reasons. This project is deacon lead and those visited have always been very pleased to see us. We seldom spend more than 3 hours preparing the meal, boxing it up for delivery, and delivering. Can you spare an hour or so on these Saturdays to come out and be a part of this ministry? **You do NOT have to be deacon to take part** and the fellowship of working together is great and the blessings received are innumerable.

On February 14th, we will start at 12:30 p.m. with delivery starting at 2:00 p.m. On March 14th, we will start at 10:00 a.m. with delivery starting at 11:30 a.m. Any way that you would like to help would greatly be appreciated and we promise that you will be blessed by participating.



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

### February Meetings

Sunday, Feb. 8 & 22 - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

### March Meetings

Sunday, Mar. 8 & 22 - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

## WINTER JAM 2015

The youth will attend Winter Jam 2015 at the Berglund Center in Roanoke on March 12, 2015. They plan to leave the church at 3:00 p.m. The website states, "This year's line-up continues a tradition of excellent music and impacting ministry, and we're especially excited to welcome our friends Skillet back as headliners." Also scheduled to appear is Capitol CMG artist Jeremy Camp and Francesca Battistelli, who has earned a GRAMMY nomination and six Dove Awards.



Saturday, March 21

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Youth Spaghetti Dinner

Adults - \$8:00      Children - \$4.00



## WELCOME NEW BABY

Congratulations to Steve and Barbara Manuel on the birth of their grandson, Avett Hartlee Manuel, who was born January 21, 2015.

Congratulations to April Draper on the birth of her daughter, Kylie Jo, who was born January 21, 2015. Carroll and Shirley Draper are the proud grandparents.

Fill in the blanks: "Set a watch, O Lord, before my \_\_\_\_\_; keep the door of my \_\_\_\_\_."

- A. steps, feet
- B. family, house
- C. heart, soul
- D. mouth, lips

(Answer on Birthday page)



**WMU MEETINGS**

Tuesday - February 24 - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday - March 24 - 7:00 p.m.

**FOCUS ON WMU FEBRUARY 8 - 15, 2015**

During Focus on WMU week, the WMU will share with the congregation information about our WMU, its history, and how we connect with missions from Virginia to around the world through WMU. Test your knowledge: How old is the National WMU organization, the WMU of Virginia, and the WMU at Oak Level? Do you know what the squares on the WMU quilt hanging in the foyer represent? Be sure to attend on Sundays, February 8 & 15 and on Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> to learn how you can be involved with missions.

**BLAND MINISTRY CENTER**

Dee Dee Hoosier, director of the Bland Ministry Center, is a very busy woman. She helps to manage a clothes closet, a food pantry, a free dental clinic and mission teams for a local ministry center. "Our mission is to help others in the surrounding areas with any social or spiritual need they have," Hoosier said. The ministry center started in 1980.

"It was the vision of the East River Baptist Association and Dr. Marshall Walker who was the Director of missions at that time. It had a twofold mission. Number one: To establish a Baptist Denominational Church in this section of Bland County. Then also to meet the social and physical needs of area and regional residents," Hoosier said.

On March 19th we will tour the Bland Ministry Center and deliver any items that we have collected. We are looking to collect: children and youth undies and paper towels. We will leave the church at 11:30 a.m. on the 19th to visit and see the work at the ministry center.



Shine 2015  
Eagle Eyrie  
April 10-12, 2015

State RA Racer Event  
Crossroads  
April 18, 2015



**OLBC 2015 Goal - \$2,000.00**

When you give to the CBF Offering for Global Missions, you help change lives around the world.  
Special emphasis **March 1 - 8, 2015**

**#END HUNGER**

"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." - Isaiah 58:10

Current Hunger Facts:

- 805 million people in the world do not have enough to eat. This number is down more than 100 million over the last decade, and 209 million lower than in 1990-92. FAO, 2014
- One in every nine people on our planet go to bed hungry each night. FAO, 2014
- Hunger kills more people each year than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined. FAO, 2014

Come on Wednesday, March 4th and share a meal that any of these would LOVE to have!

**CBFVA MISSION BOX  
BABY CARE KITS FOR HAITI**




CBFVA is partnering with Jenny Jenkins, CBF Field Personnel, to provide Baby Care Kits to help young mothers in Haiti care for their newborn babies.

To assemble a Baby Care Kit you will need:

- Five cloth diapers
  - Two t-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
  - Two wash clothes
  - One gown or sleeper
  - Three receiving blankets
- Items must be new and under 12 months in size  
Please include a \$5 gift payable to CBFVA to assist with distribution cost

Place items inside of a ONE GALLON Ziploc bag  
Needed at church by April 19th to deliver to the CBFVA office on or before April 30, 2015.





# February 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Deacons' Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	<b>4</b> Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m.  PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am  Youth Mtg. 3:00 - 5:00 pm 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Community Meal – 12:30 pm  Reception/Pounding for the Glasses – 4:00 pm
Focus on WMU Week February 8 - 15						
<b>15</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am  Youth Mtg. 3:00 - 5:00 pm   Pennies for the Precious	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> WMU Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>25</b> PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

Deacon of the Month – Lee Boswell

Counters of the Month – Brenda Ferguson & Donna Winebarger

# March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Deacons' Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	<b>4</b> Men's Breakfast 7:30 a.m.  PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	 Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed!
CBF Offering Emphasis - END HUNGER - March 1 - 8						
<b>8</b> Daylight Savings Begins Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am  Youth Mtg. 3:00 - 5:00 pm 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>12</b> Winter Jam Berglund Center Leave at 3:00 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Community Meal – 10:00 am
<b>15</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>19</b> Bland Ministry Center Leave church at 11:30 a.m.	<b>20</b>	 Youth Spaghetti Dinner 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
<b>22</b> Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am   Pennies for the Precious Youth Mtg. 3:00 - 5:00 pm 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> WMU Meeting 7:00 p.m.	<b>25</b> PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Palm Sunday Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

Deacon of the Month – Peggy Morris

Counters of the Month – Martha Meeks & Ken Turner