

Oak Level Baptist Church

7720 Oak Level Road Bassett, VA 24055
(276) 629-7973 olbc@comcast.net
www.OakLevelBaptist.org

“SHARING THE JOURNEY”

Volume 35

October/November 2012

More Harm than Good

In the movie "**What about Bob**," which was filmed at Smith Mountain Lake and surrounding area, Bill Murray's character Bob is a man struggling with numerous mental and emotional problems that leave him quite dysfunctional in daily life. His psychiatrist refers him to Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfus, who seems to hold the key to a breakthrough.

However, the doctor is about to leave on an extended vacation with his family, and Bob suddenly finds himself once again panicked by the prospect of going some weeks without therapy. Through a course of sneaky moves Bob discovers where the doctor and his family are vacationing and, though quite uninvited, shows up hoping to have his needs met with no concern to the needs of the doctor and his family.

As Bob steps off the bus in the middle of town he begins to call out for Dr. Marvin who hears him from a nearby store. He rushes over to quiet the embarrassing situation, and Bob begins to plead with Dr. Marvin for help. As he stands there begging, he cries over and over, "*Gimme, gimme, gimme, I need, I need, I need.*" He is consumed by his own need with absolutely no consideration to Dr. Marvin's need for time away from the office to be with his family.

I can't help but think of this scene in the movie when I hear of Christians who flit from one church to another looking for their needs to be met. One will say he's not being fed, so it's time to move on to a church with just the right pastor and teachers who will fill him spiritually on Sundays. Another family looks for the most active youth group, because they want their teenagers to be equipped in the things of the Lord and enjoy lots of fun filled activities. Others will look for the perfect music program where their souls are lifted by the exciting worship music and poise of the song leaders and performers. There are still other folks who will leave one church in search of another where the pastor will visit them, smile a lot, and meet their personal needs without offending them or hurting their feelings.

The church in America has descended into a place of ignorance when it comes to worship and ministry. Never did Christ instruct us to settle comfortably into padded pews an hour or two a week to be coddled and ministered to by people paid and trained to be our need providers. We have shamefully become a people who cry "*Gimme, gimme, gimme, I need, I need, I need,*" and when we don't receive the right flavor pacifier we think we need to move on in search of another provider. It has escaped the consciousness of most believers today that Jesus Christ said, "*he that will be first must be last.*" As our example He said that He "*had not come to be served but to serve.*" In another place Jesus taught us the spiritual principle that "*it is better to give than receive,*" and in Philippians God orders us to "*esteem others as better than ourselves.*" Never in the New Testament account of the healthy early church do we see examples of lazy believers growing fat and happy as they become part of the body of Christ. Think about it—if someone in the body of Christ is not a useful arm, leg, eye, or ear, then he is most likely a painful tumor or withered limb robbing the body of its strength and health.

Our purpose in the body is to minister in accordance with how the Spirit has equipped us, to the glory of God and building up of the entire body (the church). If what I am doing (or not doing) is not building up the rest of the body and honoring God, then I have missed my purpose entirely. I must not be so concerned with my own comforts and needs that I forget that "*greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*"

In 1 Corinthians, chapter 11, Paul says to the church, "*I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good.*" There were such disagreements and arguments among the believers that they were divided. Each was looking out for his own interests, and even during the celebration of the Lord's supper, which by the way was a true sit-down feast, they dishonored the Lord by their overeating, drunkenness, and inconsiderate failure to wait for everyone to arrive in order to share the meal together. How disgraceful that when some brothers and sisters arrived, all that remained to greet them at this supposed holy occasion were empty dishes and the abundant rudeness of drunken gluttons. Not a pretty picture!

Rather than temple hopping in hopes of stumbling into the perfect church we need to flourish where God has planted us in order to be a blessing and servant to the others. It is crucial that we remember that our spiritual growth is not the responsibility of someone else. I must personally cultivate those disciplines of Bible study, prayer, and service in order to grow into Christ-like maturity. Likewise, the ultimate spiritual well-being of my wife and children should not depend upon those outside my family, though I am appreciative of worthy teaching and godly doctrine that will supplement what first takes place in our home. Children will always learn more by the example they observe being lived out around them than by words and programs that fill a few structured hours at the church building. And just because there may be a large children's or youth program is no guarantee that it is accomplishing much spiritual good. It is not uncommon today to discover that those within the church are indistinguishable from those without. They dress the same, talk the same, visit the same places, and sadly often share the same filthy mud pits as their immoral and godless friends at school or work. If purity and holiness are missing at home or in one's personal life, it only means there is a good chance that a larger gathering of these same folks will but reflect the low level of spirituality of the many individuals. One dirty thread wrapped together with many dirty threads only makes for one dirty rope.

Instead of fleeing one location for another, why not pray to God about the local need, and then say, "*Here am I Lord, send me*" (not away from your present location but into the joy of service)? Why not look at the great need in your present situation, and then be the one who steps up to meet that need by the power of Christ? If children and youth workers are needed, volunteer to serve. If teaching is weak or uninspiring why not pray about your part in making it more interesting and meaningful? If the music program suffers, become part of the solution by being faithful to improve it. If the pastor doesn't quite float your boat, begin to pray for his needs and those of his family, bless him, offer to assist him, and above all, pray about what you are looking for to float your boat in the first place. It just might be that you've been wanting to float in the wrong stuff! The perfect local church does not exist on earth. If enough of us will mature in the faith and put our developed spiritual gifts to work, the fruit of the Spirit will become evident in the body, God will be exalted, and the unshepherded and visitors we bring to our temples will look to us and know that we are Christians by the love we have one for another. Let's stop complaining with "*Gimme, gimme, gimme, I need, I need, I need*" and offer ourselves up as living sacrifices saying "*How can I serve you?*". With this attitude it is certain our meetings will do more good than harm.

-Rev. Steve Manuel

October Birthdays

Oct. 01 Sherry S. Taylor
Oct. 02 Steven McMillan
Oct. 04 James Snead
Oct. 05 Benny Young
Oct. 07 Paul McKee
Oct. 09 Bobby Haulsey
Oct. 10 Jane Workerger
Oct. 14 Rhonda Seay
Oct. 16 Rosa D. Stone
Oct. 18 Justin Spencer
Oct. 20 Shirley Tobler
Ryan Wingfield
Oct. 23 Ricky McDaniel
Dot Wray
Oct. 24 Joanne Hurd
Ronnie Brown
Charlie Lumpkin
Caleb Howell
Oct. 27 Debi Wells
Mark Forbes
Oct. 28 David Lee Franklin
Oct. 29 Linda Gaines
Oct. 30 Betty S. Sparks
Taylor Biggs
Oct. 31 Jed Coleman

November Birthdays

Nov. 02 David Hurd, Sr.
Nov. 03 Gary Thomas
Nov. 04 Marcia Miles
Barbara Mabe
Nov. 05 Kyle Scott
Nov. 08 Jason Howell
Nov. 10 Nancy Turner
Nov. 11 Jordan Gilley
Nov. 12 Bettie Snead
J.T. Young
Nov. 13 Brandon Keen
Nov. 17 Bunny Thomasson
Nov. 18 Donna Gilbert
David Tuttle
Nov. 20 Kristi Thomas
Tiffany Childress
Nov. 24 Dolores Thompson
Nov. 25 Stephen Brown
Betty Turner

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

We would like to extend a *Great Big* THANK YOU to all the people who helped make the 75th Anniversary such a huge success. It took a lot of people all working collectively for this to come together and we just want to thank everyone who helped. A special Thank You goes to Donna Winebarger and Martha Sue Meeks for heading up the Anniversary Committee.

FLOWERS



Flowers placed in the Church Sanctuary on Sunday, September 16, 2012 were given with love, in memory of Jesse Hanks Cox, son of Esther Hanks.


Flowers placed in the Church Sanctuary on Sunday, September 23, 2012 were in memory of Gay (Buck) Stultz, Audrey Stultz and Tom & Winnie Young and were given by James & Janet Branscome.

Flowers placed in the Church Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 23 were given in memory of Tome and Winnie Young and given by David & Mary Louise Gibbs.

"BODY LIFE" GATHERING

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. We will let you know when we reschedule the gathering.

GOD IS LOVE!



With Sympathy

Christian sympathy extended to Jean Thomas and her family and friends on the death of her husband and our church member, Buren Thomas, who passed away Wednesday, August 22, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Tena Cassidy and her family and friends on the death of her sister, Shelby Brown Whitlow, who passed away Thursday, August 23, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to Ken & Nancy Turner and their family and friends on the death of Nancy's aunt, Irene R. Turner, who passed away Monday, September 10, 2012.

Christian sympathy extended to the family and friends of Reubin S. Belton, who passed away on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at Fork Mountain Nursing Home.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for awarding me with the Jones Scholarship. Thanks to you, my tuition for college has been paid in full for both semesters. It has really meant a lot to me.
Brianna Rouse

Thank you, for the wonderful blessing you have given us. We are grateful and humbled by your generosity. You gift will enable us to catch up on some bills and provide for our family, but it means more to us than just provision. It is a reminder that the church is still alive and that we can trust in the Lord in our times of trouble. I would like to say our Faith has always been great, but as we grow in the Lord we realize that what we once thought was great, wasn't much at all. We are learning to trust Him and in the midst of our trials, we received your wonderful gift reassuring us God is in control and that He can provide for us in the most unexpected ways. Thank you for the gift, the love, and your obedience to Christ. Most of all thank you for being the Body of Christ and being there to lift us up when we were down. Our hearts and prayers are with you. With the Love of Christ,
Daren, Andrea, Lance, & Tristan Jones

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Steve & Barbara Manuel on the birth of their grandson, Atlee Manuel, who was born Monday, August 6, 2012. Atlee weighed 8.5 lbs. and was 20 inches long. His parents are Jason and Andrea Manuel and he has an older brother named Aiden.

Congratulations to Addis and Barbara Mabe on the birth of their great-grandson, Bentley Thomas Warner, who was born Friday, August 24, 2012. He weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. and is said to be very handsome. He is the son of Will and Kristyn Warner.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Ladies from the Oak Level community will get together again for a Fellowship Luncheon on Monday, October 15 at 11:30 a.m. at the Dutch Inn. We will have stories to share, good food and great Christian Fellowship. All ladies are encouraged to attend. Please contact Kay Harley (629-7602) or Sue Young at the church (629-7973) as soon as possible for your reservation. If you need a ride, please let Sue know so we can meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. to ride the church van.

YARD SALE AT
FORK MOUNTAIN REST HOME

The residents at Fork Mountain Rest Home located at 2925 Fork Mountain Road in Rocky Mount are having a yard sale on Friday, October 5, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. to raising money for special projects for the residents to enjoy.

HCBA ANNUAL MEETING

The Henry County Baptist Association will have their Annual Meeting at Axton Baptist Church on October, 23, 2012. Registration starts at 5:00p.m. followed by a meal at 5:30p.m. The evening session will begin at 6:30p.m. Messengers from Oak Level Baptist Church are Donna Winebarger, Betty Jo Foley, Wilbern & Martha Sue Meeks and Betty Metz.



RACEWAY MINISTRIES

October 26-28, 2012

Volunteers Needed!!

Friday afternoon, all day Saturday & Sunday

PRAY. VOLUNTEER, DONATE REFRESHMENTS

Donate individually wrapped snacks

Bought or handmade

Contact HCBA at 276-638-2951

or hcbaptists@hotmail.com



YOU ARE INVITED!

United States Air Force Langley Winds

Woodwind Ensemble in Concert









Monday, October 15, 2012

7:00 p.m.




First Baptist Church, Martinsville

Cost: FREE!

October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 No Men's Breakfast	4 Youth Meeting - 5:30 p.m. PTS - 6:15 p.m.	5	6
7 Sunday School - 9:45 am Worship Service - 11:00 am 	8 Columbus Day Church Office Closed	9 Church Office Closed	10 Deacon's Meeting 7:00 p.m. Church Office Closed	11 PTS (Pray Teach & Share) 6:15 p.m. HCBA Executive Committee Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	12	13
14 Sunday School - 9:45 am Worship Service - 11:00 am	15  Ladies Luncheon at Mackie's 11:00 a.m.	16 National Boss Day	17	18 Youth Meeting - 5:30 p.m. Worship & Business Meeting 6:45 p.m.	19	20
21 Sunday School - 9:45 am Worship Service - 11:00 am	22 Church Office Closed	23 HCBA Annual Meeting (Axton Baptist Church) Church Office Closed	24 Church Office Closed	25 PTS (Pray Teach & Share) 6:15 p.m. Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 Sunday School - 9:45 am Worship Service - 11:00 am  Pennies for the Precious	29	30 WMU Meeting - 7:00 p.m.	31  Halloween	   Deacon of the Month - Virginia Metz - 276-629-8662		

November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Deacon of the Month - Ben Morris - 540-489-8577				1 Youth Meeting - 5:30 p.m. PTS - 6:15 p.m. All Saints Day	2	3
4 Sunday School - 10:45 p.m. Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.  Daylight Saving's Time Ends	5	6 Election Day	7  Man's Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Deacon's Meeting - 7:00 p.m.	8 PTS - 6:15 p.m.	9	10
11 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. Young/Emberson Reunion (Fellowship Hall Reserved) Veterans Day	12	13	14	15 Youth Meeting - 5:30 p.m. Worship & Business Mtg. 6:15 p.m.	16	17
18 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.	19	20	21	22  Church Office Closed	23 Church Office Closed	24
25 Sunday School - 10:45 a.m. Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.  Pennies for the Precious	26	27 WMU Meeting 7:00 p.m.	28	29 Youth Meeting - 5:30 p.m. PTS (Pray, Teach & Share) 6:15 p.m.	30	



ALMA HUNT
OFFERING
Emphasis

September 9–16, 2012

OLBC Church Goal - \$1,000.00

Offering Received - \$1030.00

Thank you to all who
donated to Alma Hunt

HYGIENE PACKETS FOR FLUVANNA
CORRECTION CENTER FOR WOMEN

The WMU will be collecting hygiene items and Card Ministry items to be given to women at the **Fluvanna Correction Center for Women**. Please keep in mind that we may not deviate the amount, size or type of hygiene items.

Approved Hygiene Items are:

- One individually wrapped toothbrush
- One tube of toothpaste (not to exceed 4 oz.)
- One deodorant stick (no spray or roll-on) (not to exceed 2.4 oz.)
- One bottle shampoo (Not to exceed 15 oz.)
- One bottle of lotion (not to exceed 15oz.)

*Substitute items are **NOT** permitted

*Size limitations cannot be exceeded

APPROVED CARD MINISTRY ITEMS

- One unsharpened wooden pencil
- Greeting Cards (all occasions—including Christmas & Hanukkah)
- Stationary Items (envelopes, writing paper)
- Postage Stamps (Please donate the Forever Stamps)

Please have items at the church by Sunday, November 25th.

MEETINGS & DEADLINES

October

Oct. 23 - HCBA Annual Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 30 - WMU Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

November

Nov. 2-3 or Nov. 3-4 - Women's Get-A-Way

Nov. 04 - Last day to bring Shoeboxes

Nov. 25 - Last Day for Hygiene Items

Nov. 27 - WMU Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



We will be collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child again this year. Be looking in the Pew Pockets for information about gift ideas and how to pack your boxes. **The last date to have your shoeboxes at the church will be Sunday, November 4, 2012.**

REACHING 100 MILLION CHILDREN FOR CHRIST

(One Heart at a Time)

In 1993, a partner in the United Kingdom invited Samaritan's Purse to get involved in a project to collect gift boxes for children in war-torn Bosnia. A good friend of mine in Charlotte was asked to introduce the idea to his church. To my amazement, that church packed so many shoe boxes that they overflowed into the hallways. That first year Samaritan's Purse delivered 28,000 shoe box gifts to Bosnia. We were overwhelmed so many came in, but we recognized that these simple gifts were blessings from God that He could use to reach children with the true meaning of Christmas - the birth of His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. This is how Operation Christmas Child began. Since then the Lord has multiplied that one empty shoe box into our upcoming National Collection Week, November 12-19. We want to reach as many children as possible with shoe box gifts and The Greatest Journey lessons. As we rejoice over 100 million, let's not forget that there are about 1.9 billion children under age 14 worldwide, and most of them still need to hear the gospel. Time is short and the need is urgent.

Franklin Graham

Engage

WOMEN'S GET-A-WAY at
EAGLE EYRIE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CTR.

NOVEMBER 2-3 & 3-4, 2012

Featuring:

David Bailey - Worship Leader - Connecting people, cultures, and communities through worship.

Kathi Macias - Keynote Speaker - Award winning author, teacher, popular women's teacher

Several women are planning to attend the Friday & Saturday session and several are going on Saturday/Sunday session. Check out the wmuv.org to see which schedule works for you. If you would like to attend, contact Donna Winebarger or call the church office for more information.