

# Oak Level Baptist Church

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Volume 46

## SHARING THE JOURNEY

July/August 2022

### A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Last Wednesday night as I watched the Bela family from Kosovo walk onto the tarmac at the airport in Roanoke a flood of emotions raced through me. On the one hand I was embarrassed that I had so much while they had so little. They brought their sole possessions to the United States in a little bag smaller than the ones in which we use to carry Jared's diapers.

I was embarrassed that I had not listened to the news reports of the war in their country with more interest. I was embarrassed that I had been exposed daily to news of the war there and our political debate here over the appropriateness of U.S. involvement. These were human beings. They were hungry. Their children wore clothing that no longer fit. Their faces were emaciated. Their feet were covered with worn out shoes still covered with Macedonian dust. Their tear-stained faces and their frightened eyes embarrassed me that I was so well fed and my closet so full.

It was sin that put these children at risk. It was the sins of hatred and indifference that caused so much hurt in their country. As I have listened to them, through their interpreters, tell of the horrors that they have endured I am reminded all too clearly of the stirring testimony of Nessel Godin, the Holocaust survivor who spoke in Martinsville earlier this year, of how deadly the sin of hatred can be.

We live in the greatest country in the world! Americans are free from the tyranny of an oppressive government. We are free from a police state where soldiers roam the street and suspects are shot without a trial. We are free to worship as we please. We are free to be Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, or Muslim without the fear of bloodshed. We are free to be German, or Irish, English,

African, or Albanian descent without the fear of ethnic cleansing. Our freedom is a precious commodity. Freedom provides us both security and opportunity.

As Christians we enjoy an even greater freedom. Through the work of Jesus Christ and our faith in Him as God's one and only Son we are free from the condemnation of sin. Being free from the sentence of sin provides us security. But we are also free to go and do in Christ's name because sin cannot harm us; this is opportunity. Therefore, both as Christians and as citizens of these great United States, we possess wonderful freedoms that provide tremendous security and opportunity. These dual freedoms demand that we act responsibly.

When we are exposed to the plight of others each of us are moved to appreciate our security both in Christ and in our nation. But how many of us consider the great opportunity our freedom provides? If we do not take advantage of the opportunity God has given us, we run the risk of falling victim to the sin of indifference; and that can be as devastating and hurtful a sin as the sin of hatred to which the ethnic Albanians have endured.

On this 4<sup>th</sup> of July, as we appreciate our country's heritage, let us also give thanks for our heritage as the chosen children of God. Let us use the gift of freedom wisely. Our American freedom has been purchased with the blood of patriots; it will last but a lifetime. Our freedom from sin was purchased with the blood of Jesus; and it will last an eternity. Let us go in Jesus' name making disciples of all the nations.

Amen!

Rev. Len Keever  
(Reprinted from OLBC Newsletter,  
July 1999)



### JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 2	Tracey M. Foley
July 3	Brenda Ferguson
July 9	Sharon M. Hall Della Chapman
July 10	Bill Young
July 13	Tamie Foley
July 17	Jesse Cannaday
July 18	Brandi Barrett
July 21	Imogene McMillian
July 22	Betty R. Martin
July 24	Jean Swain
July 26	David Keen
July 27	Sherri Mason
July 29	Betty Jo Foley Beth Howell
July 31	Mike Weaver

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Aug. 1	Ken Meeks Addis Mabe
Aug. 2	James I. Seay, Jr.
Aug. 4	Victoria Lynn Chaney
Aug. 09	Matthew Thompson
Aug. 10	Cheryl Newman
Aug. 11	Breanna Lawson Lilah Baumgardner
Aug. 12	Shirley Ramsey Gilbert
Aug. 14	Joan Frith
Aug. 16	Dwayne Wright
Aug. 17	Sarah Surratt
Aug. 19	Michelin Hall Joshua Rodgers Louise Webb
Aug. 23	Mary Stegall
Aug. 24	Wayne Miles
Aug. 26	Austin Boggs
Aug. 28	Allison Seay
Aug. 29	Darnell Boyd

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

On July 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM the Church Council will meet and the first order of business will be to select a Pastor Search Committee. Every person that makes up the Council should be in attendance for this meeting.

The next Business Meeting will be August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM and we need 13 members in attendance to have a quorum to make any votes official and to not have a business meeting on Sunday morning.

This new Pastor Search Committee will need to be approved at that meeting.

In addition, a new slate of Officers, Teachers, and Committees will also be presented for the church's approval at that meeting.

**YOU ARE VITALLY  
IMPORTANT TO THE MISSION  
AND CONTINUATION OF THE  
CHURCH.**


Are the scriptures relevant for today's world in 2022? What does the scripture say about the situation that we find ourselves in today? Join us for worship at 11:00 AM and you will certainly find the answers to these questions and more.

Join us for Bible Study at 6:00 PM on Wednesdays as we study through Acts about the first church and how OLBC can be more like that Spirit-filled church. We also share concerns and praises during this hour of Prayer, Teaching and Sharing (PTS).



## WMU MEETINGS

Tuesday - July 26 - 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday - August 23 - 6:30 p.m.

Give to the  
CBF *Offering for*  
GLOBAL MISSIONS 

**OLBC 2022 Goal - \$2,000.00  
Received To Date - \$2,245.00**

**Because Presence Matters**



If you purchase school supplies for the Samaritans Purse Shoeboxes in November, the **Tax-Free Days** for School Supplies will be **August 5-7<sup>th</sup>** in Virginia.

## WITH SYMPATHY

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Mildred Seay Ramsey, who passed away on Thursday, May 26, 2022. Mildred was a member of OLBC for over 70 years and will be missed by all.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family and friends of George Condyles, who passed away on Sunday, June 12, 2022. George was the husband of Harriet Ramsey Condyles.

## THANK YOU

Thank you, Betsy Henny, for lending your beautiful talent for playing the piano. We are enjoying having you with us and the music you share during Lance's time of recuperating from a broken wrist.



**CHRISTIANS  
AIN'T PERFECT  
BUT JESUS IS!**

# July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> Communion Sunday Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b> Church Secretary Off (Independence Day)	<b>6</b> Church Council 5:30 PM  PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Deacons' Mtg. - 5:00 p.m.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Brown Family Reunion Fellowship Hall	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  Stultz Family Reunion Fellowship Hall
<b>24</b> Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	<b>27</b>  PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am						

Deacon of the Month – Brenda Ferguson

Counters of the Month – Donna Winebarger & Lance Frith

# August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	4	5	6
7 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Deacons' Mtg. - 5:00 p.m.	8	9	10 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Young/Pearson Reunion  Newsletter Info Due	15	16	17 Business Meeting 6:00 p.m.  Vote on Officers, Teachers & Committees	18	19	20
21 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	22	23 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	24 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	25	26	27
28 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	29	30	31 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.			

Deacon of the Month – Betty Jo Foley

Counters of the Month – Ken Turner & Brenda Ferguson