

# Oak Level Baptist Church

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Volume 48

SHARING THE JOURNEY

March/April 2024

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I hope and pray that everyone had a good end of 2023 and are anticipating what wonderful blessings God has in store for us in the year 2024. As you know we didn't have a newsletter for January/February because there wasn't a whole lot to report, and we were just coming down from the Advent and Christmas seasons. Now that we're in the March/April newsletter we're ready to go and ready to enjoy what God has for us! So many wonderful things on the horizon; not least of which, of course, is Easter. Easter is on March 31<sup>st</sup> this year so it's coming fast.

Here recently since the beginning of the year we have had messages to remind us that God will provide for us if we will but put our faith in Him and trust everything that we have to Him vs. trusting everything with ourselves. We've had (I think) some very poignant messages to remind us that God's in control and that He will provide. I was reading in my devotions recently of yet another instance of God's provision and promise from Judges 6 when God calls Gideon to do this task: tear down the altar to Baal and replace it with an altar to God. Gideon does the task in the dead of night to avoid being seen. However, the men of the town know Gideon is the one who tore down the altar to their false god and erected an altar to the true God. The ensuing anger turns into the Midianite army along with their allies amassing across the Jordan ready to go to war with Gideon and the people of Israel. The devotional account states that Gideon is the "fearless leader" of the Israelites but in truth Gideon isn't

so fearless after all. Gideon asks God for a sign: he tells God he will lay a fleece on the threshing floor, and if there is dew on the wool the next morning Gideon says that this will prove to him that God has chosen him to be the leader of the Israelites. Sure enough, the next morning the fleece was damp with dew. But Gideon asks for another sign: this one that the fleece will be dry the next morning with dew everywhere else. The next morning the fleece was dry. The rest of the story: Gideon leads the Israelite army to victory.

Here's the takeaway: do we require multiple signs from God to "prove" His intentions for us? God may very well give us signs if we ask for them but consider this: can't we trust Him when He speaks to us knowing that He will provide simply by looking to His word and accounts like this story from Judges 6 in addition to many other examples from Scripture where God has taken care of His people? Or do we take God at His word and do whatever task He has called us to? May I challenge all of us to first of all, be diligently seeking God's will for us, and number two, trust Him when He leads us into whatever His will is for us instead of wanting sign after sign after sign before we believe that God will lead us and provide for us.

Whatever God's call is, trust that He will provide. He's proven it in multiple accounts in His word, and I bet we all could fill pages of testimony of accounts in our own lives where He's provided, protected, and granted.

Daniel  
*Philippians 4:13*

## March Birthdays

Mar. 4	Mary Carter Brandi Taylor
Mar. 8	Janet Branscome
Mar. 10	Kevin Atkins
Mar. 11	Jennifer Thompson
Mar. 17	Al Harley
Mar. 18	Katina B. Pettit
Mar. 20	Jamie Brown
Mar. 21	Mischelle Carter Roger Young
Mar. 22	Kevin Baumgardner
Mar. 23	Sommer Carter
Mar. 25	Lee W. Pettit
Mar. 26	Lee Boswell
Mar. 28	Shannon Wright Sue Young Christy Hunley
Mar. 29	James Edward Joyce

## April Birthdays

Apr. 3	Shirley Draper
Apr. 5	April Gammons
Apr. 7	Meaghan Poore
Apr. 8	Christopher Howell
Apr. 10	Deborah Thomas
Apr. 11	Brittany Flannagan
Apr. 15	Alexandra Gill
Apr. 16	Kim C. Dickerson Joseph Pierce Jonathan Pierce Sherry Y. Stone Melissa Thompson
Apr. 17	Dana Young
Apr. 18	James Griffith
Apr. 20	Virginia Metz Drake Winebarger
Apr. 23	Robert Gillespie
Apr. 28	Caroline Snead
Apr. 29	Bruce Thompson

## NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

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

\*Shirley Tobler – Room 361

Franklin Health & Rehab  
720 Orchard Ave.  
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

\*Joan Frith

Stanleytown Health & Rehab  
Center, 240 Riverside Dr.,  
Bassett, VA 24055

Iris Joyce



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on **Saturday, March 9th!**

### SPECIAL SINGING AND MEAL

On **Sunday, March 17**, Roger and Debbie Boyer with Doug Burns will provide special music beginning at 10AM (no Sunday school that Sunday) with regular worship at 11AM and a fellowship meal to follow. Bring your favorite side dishes and desserts to share. The meat and drinks will be provided by the church.

### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Isaiah 53:5 states, "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." Join us **Friday, March 29 at 7 PM**, to commemorate the death of Christ on the cross. Because by His death, Jesus became the final and complete sacrifice for our sins.

### JONES SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Through the generosity of Inez and Casey Jones, assets have been set aside by Oak Level Baptist Church to provide scholarships 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 **April 1, 2024**.

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council will meet **Wednesday, April 3**, at 5:30 p.m. Come prepared to plan events for the church calendar through September 2024. Those on the church council include: Pastor, Deacons Chairperson, Music Director, Stewardship Chairperson, Sunday School Director, and WMU Director. Other committee chairpersons are encouraged to attend if they have items to add to the calendar.

**HE IS NOT HERE;  
HE RISEN!**



### WMU MEETINGS

**Tuesday - March 26 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday - April 23 - 6:30 p.m.**

### SHOEBOX CRAFT DAY

We had a good time working on items to include in the Samaritans Purse Shoeboxes this year. Jewelry was made and cloth Tic-Tac-Toe bags are underway. Watch for our next date to begin the packing of boxes.

### THANK YOU

Thank you for the 22 readers and 22 sunglasses and 21 toothbrushes that were forwarded to the WMUV office and packed to take to Mully Children's Family campus in Ndalani, Kenya. These will be distributed during the medical missions trip in March to include general medical evaluations, dental treatment, eye care, labs, physical therapy, and pharmacy.

### BEREAVEMENT BAGS

The OLBC WMU are making *Bereavement Bags* to have on hand at the church. These bags include a little extra supply of daily items to help in a time of loss. The bags include such items as paper towels, paper plates, cups, plastic utensils, storage containers, tissues, and foil wrap.



Pure Water, Pure Love (PWPL) has a three-fold mission: to supply missionaries with water filters, to provide the people they serve with wells that offer clean water, and to supply missions teams with water filters for use on short-term missions trips. Throughout the world, people are at constant risk of contracting a disease or parasites from their water. Many are forced to carry heavy jugs of water for miles just to be sure their families have clean, healthy water. For others, the prospect of clean water is simply non-existent. With the help of hundreds of churches, PWPL provides thousands of water filters to missionary families and helps fund clean water projects. You can help! We will take a special offering for PWPL on **Sunday, April 21, 2024**.

# March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Dr. Daniel Collins – Reserve Weekend
3 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Guest Speaker – Jack Surma	4	5	6 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	7	8	9
10 Daylight Saving Time Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	11	12	13 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17 Special Music – 10:00 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Easter Fellowship Meal following Worship Service	18	19	20 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	21	22	23
	Dr. Daniel Collins – Reserve Training					
24 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	25	26 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	27 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.  Deacons' Meeting 7:00 p.m.	28	29 Good Friday Service 7:00 p.m.	30
31 EASTER Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am						

Deacon of the Month – Ben Morris

Counters of the Month – Ben Morris & Lance Frith

**MISSION EMPHASIS**  
 Pure Water, Pure Love  
 Offering Collected Sunday, April 21

# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Church Council 5:30 PM  PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	4	5	6 Dr. Daniel Collins – Reserve Duty
7 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Guest Speaker	8	9	10  PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Communion Sunday Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	15	16	17  PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	18	19	20
21 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Newsletter Info Due	22	23 WMU Meeting 6:30 pm	24 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.  Deacons' Meeting 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27
28 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	29	30				

Deacon of the Month – Lance Frith

Counters of the Month – Donna Winebarger & Brenda Ferguson