

Oak Level Baptist Church

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

Volume 45

SHARING THE JOURNEY

November/December 2021

The Cobbler and His Guest

Long ago there lived in the city of Marseilles an old shoemaker, loved and honored by all his neighbors, who affectionately called him "Father Martin." One Christmas Eve he sat alone in his little shop, reading of the visit of the wise men to the infant Jesus, and of the gifts they brought. He said to himself, "If tomorrow were the first Christmas, and if Jesus were to be born in Marseilles this night, I know what I would give Him!" He arose and took from a shelf two little shoes of softest snow-white leather, with bright silver buckles, "I would give Him these, my finest work. How pleased His mother would be! But I'm a foolish old man," he thought, smiling. "The Master has no need for my poor gifts."

Replacing the shoes, he blew out the candle, and retired to rest. Hardly had he closed his eyes, it seemed, when he heard a voice call his name, "Martin!" Intuitively, he felt aware of the identity of the speaker. "Martin, you have longed to see Me. Tomorrow I shall pass by your window. If you see Me and bid Me enter, I shall be your guest and sit at your table."

He did not sleep that night for joy. Before it was yet dawn, he arose and tidied up his little shop. He spread fresh sand on the floor, and wreathed green bows of fir along the rafters. On the table he placed a loaf of white bread, a jar of honey, and a pitcher of milk; and over the fire he hung a hot drink. His simple preparations were complete.

When all was in readiness, he took up his vigil at the window. He was sure he would know the Master. As he watched the driving sleet and rain in the cold, deserted street, he thought of the joy that would be his when he sat down and broke bread with his Guest.

Presently he saw an old street sweeper pass by, blowing upon his thin, gnarled hands to warm them. "Poor fellow! He must be half-frozen,"

thought Martin. Opening the door, he called out to him, "Come in, my friend, and warm yourself, and drink something hot." No further urging was needed, and the man gratefully accepted the invitation.

An hour passed, and Martin next saw a poor, miserably clothed woman carrying a baby. She paused, wearily, to rest in the shelter of his doorway. Quickly he flung open the door. "Come in and warm while you rest," he said to her. "You are not well?" he asked.

"I am going to the hospital. I hope they will take me in, and my baby," she explained. "My husband is at sea, and I am ill, without a soul to whom I can go."

"Poor child!" cried the old man. "You must eat something while you are getting warm. Let me give a cup of milk to the little one. Ah! What a bright, pretty little fellow he is! Why, you have no shoes on him!"

"I have no shoes for him," sighed the mother.

"Then he shall have this lovely pair I finished yesterday." And Martin took down the soft little snow-white shoes he had looked at the evening before, and slipped them on the child's feet. They fit perfectly. And shortly the young mother went her way full of gratitude, and Martin went back to his post at the window.

Hour after hour went by, and many needy souls shared the meager hospitality of the old cobbler, but the expected Guest did not appear.

At last, when night had fallen, Father Martin retired to his cot with a heavy heart. "It was only a dream," he sighed. "I did hope and believe, but He has not come."

Suddenly, so it seemed to his weary eyes, the room was flooded with a glorious light; and to the cobbler's astonished vision there appeared before him, one by one, the poor street sweeper, the sick mother and her baby, and all the people whom he had aided during the day. Each one smiled at him and asked, "Have

you not seen me? Did I not sit at your table?" and vanished.

Then softly out of the silence he heard again the gentle Voice, repeating the old, familiar words: "Whosoever shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me."* "For I was an hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in."* "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."*

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November Birthdays

Nov. 02	David Hurd, Sr.
Nov. 03	Gary Thomas
Nov. 04	Marcia Miles Barbara Mabe
Nov. 08	Jason Howell
Nov. 10	Nancy Turner
Nov. 11	Jordan Gilley
Nov. 13	Brandon Keen
Nov. 20	Kristi Thomas Carter
Nov. 21	Emily Sara Boswell
Nov. 24	Dolores Thompson
Nov. 30	Zachary Turner

December Birthdays

Dec. 04	Joshua Howell
Dec. 06	William Griffith
Dec. 07	Shirley Foley
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 Susan Gillespie
Dec. 29	Kelly Gray Conner Megan Thompson
Dec. 30	Roy Brown



Collection and blessing of the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be **Sunday, November 7**. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to this special ministry!



Tuesday - November 23 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday - December 21 - 6:30 p.m.

PRAY, TEACH, SERVE

Beginning **Wednesday, November 10** through December, our PTS meetings will focus on the Advent season with a study titled, "The Birthday of a King." Come join us at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday as we share the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love as "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Give to the
 CBF *Offering for*
GLOBAL MISSIONS

OLBC 2021 Goal - \$2,000.00
Received To Date - \$1,390.00

Special CBF Offering Emphasis Dec. 1- 5

THANKSGIVING MEAL



A covered dish Thanksgiving meal will be held on **Sunday, November 21** after the worship service. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share as we celebrate this Thanksgiving season. Ham and Turkey will be provided.

WOMEN'S GETAWAY 2021

Since the conference is virtual this year, we will meet in the fellowship hall to view and participate in these sessions with social distancing. **Everyone is welcome to come for as much of the program that you can!**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5 SCHEDULE:

- 6-7:15 PM:** WMUV ANNUAL MEETING - Business meeting and vote on officers
- 7:30- 8:15 PM:** MISSIONS PANEL - Volunteers will share about their work at Standing Rock, MCF and on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6 SCHEDULE:

- 8-9 AM:** MORNING PRAYER
- 9 AM:** OPENING WORSHIP - Preaching from Rev. Katie McKown and music from Jessica Fox.
- 10: 15 AM:** BREAKOUT #1: - MENTAL WELLNESS FOR WOMEN - Sara White, LPC of the WMUV Mental Health HOPE Team
- 11:15 AM:** BREAKOUT #2: - CRAFTING
- 12 NOON:** BREAK FOR LUNCH-We will have lunch together provided by the OLBC WMU
- 1 PM:** BREAKOUT #3: - OUR STORIES (Nursing During Covid)
- 2 PM:** BREAKOUT #4 - WOMEN OF THE BIBLE (DRAMA PRESENTATION)
- 3-3:45 PM:** CLOSING WORSHIP - Preaching from Rev. Katie McKown and music from Jessica Fox.



It is time to purchase Christmas poinsettias that will be placed in the sanctuary in honor or in memory of loved ones and will be displayed in the sanctuary throughout the holidays. Each 6 1/2-inch poinsettia pot (includes foil, bow, and saucer) is \$13.48 and will be available for pick up from the sanctuary on December 19 after the worship service. Harris Nursery will deliver the poinsettias free if at least 15 pots are ordered. The order form and money must be returned to the office no later than **Sunday, November 21**.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE

On **Sunday, December 19**, we will be retelling the Christmas story through Bible readings and singing all the favorite Christmas carols. Bring your favorite finger foods to be served after the service in the fellowship hall.

During the service there will be a time for remembering those loved ones we lost during **2020 - 2021**. For your loved ones to be remembered, please provide the church office their names, month, and year of death. Please call or email the office at 276-629-7973 or olbc@comcast.net.

COOKIE EXCHANGE

WMU will host a Cookie Exchange on **Saturday, December 4th** from 11 am-1:00 pm. Everyone needs to bring 2 dozen of your favorite cookies. We will have a short mission program and a light lunch in addition to exchanging cookies.



November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	4	5 Women's Virtual Get-Away at OLBC	6
7 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Deacons' Meeting – 5:00 pm Shoebox Collection	8	9	10 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	15	16	17 Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.	18	19	20
21 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Thanksgiving Luncheon following Service	22	23 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	24 No Church Activities	25 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	26	27
28 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	29	30				

Deacon of the Month – Brenda Ferguson

Counters of the Month – Ken Turner & Lance Frith

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	2	3	4 WMU Cookie Exchange Fellowship Hall – 11:00 am
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> CBF Offering Emphasis – Extend Hope & Hospitality - December 1 - 5 </div>						
5 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Deacons' Mtg. - 5:00 pm	6	7	8 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	9	10	11
12 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Newsletter Info Due	14	14	15 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m.	16	17	18
19 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Memorial Reading & Caroling Light Refreshments Following	20	21 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	22 No Church Activities <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Church Secretary on Vacation </div>	23 Church Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	27	28 Church Office Closed	29 PTS Meeting 6:30 p.m. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Church Secretary on Vacation </div>	30	31	

Deacon of the Month – Donna Winebarger

Counters of the Month – Ben Morris & Brenda Ferguson