

Oak Level Baptist Church

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Volume 46

SHARING THE JOURNEY

November/December 2022

GRACE NETWORK

Grace Network has been a beacon of hope in our community for over 16 years and we continue to help those in need each day. Our focus is helping those facing eviction from their home, a utility cutoff or are food insecure due to a financial crisis. Most of our clients are the "working poor" or are disabled and receive some sort of income, however minimal. When they face an unexpected financial event, like a car repair, a home repair or a sick child, that will trigger a spiral of debt that they cannot overcome. Our mission has always been to help those when they reach that point of crisis. We have over 115 caring volunteers that help to discern their situation and determine how we can help.

We have collaborated with agencies in our community and have been a catalyst in helping our community work together to help those in need. The last 2-3 years, the Covid-19 pandemic has put not only a financial strain on our community, but also an emotional one. Children are facing the most trying times of their lives and for those that struggle in poverty, the repercussions of that are devastating. Grace Network was in the community to help those families from the beginning of the pandemic and we have not stopped trying to make a difference. In the beginning, we were there with emergency food boxes and we helped them get back on their feet from job losses or Covid illnesses. Today, we are grateful that we are now back to our regular hours and serving our clients in the tradition that we have for over a decade.

In our fiscal year of 2021-22, we assisted 1,121 households with over \$168,000 in housing and utility assistance and over \$121,000 in food and hygiene assistance. Of those families, there were over 700 children living in the households. With the economic state we are facing with higher food and gas prices, we anticipate an increase this year as families are going to face some really hard times.

Grace Network is here to not only provide essential needs to families in crisis, but also to nurture the family with Christian love and compassion as we connect them to not only these needs but also other resources, they may not be aware of. Our community is blessed with many valuable resources and we are here to help

our families connect to a better life. When it comes to providing "short-term support", no other organization in the community has the trusted vibe as Grace, "where families in crisis find help and a listening ear" and where donors feel their investments are going to good use."

Tracy L Hinchcliff

Executive Director

A colorful graphic with the words "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" in large, multi-colored, 3D-style letters. The letters are in various colors including red, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

November Birthdays

Nov. 02	David Hurd, Sr.
Nov. 03	Gary Thomas
Nov. 04	Marcia Miles Barbara Mabe
Nov. 08	Jason Howell
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

Henry County Baptist Association

presents

Melinda Isley

in Concert

Saturday, November 12 at 4:00 PM

Hosted at FBC, Collinsville

There will be Hot Chocolate and refreshments to follow. Food and/or monetary donations for the Henry County Food Pantry will be accepted.

HOMEcoming/THANKSGIVING MEAL



A covered dish Thanksgiving meal will be held on **Sunday, November 13** 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.

COMMUNITY PRE-THANKSGIVING SERVICE

A Pre-Thanksgiving Worship Service will be held at 4 p.m. on **Sunday, November 20**, in the Historic John D. Bassett Event Center (old Bassett High School), 3289 Riverside Drive, Bassett, followed by food and fellowship in the cafeteria provided by various churches. Featured music by The Joyful Sound, men's quartet from First Baptist Bassett. All interested churches and individuals are invited. For more information, call Rev. Susan Spangenberg of Pocahontas Bassett Baptist Church at 276-629-5394.



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 **\$14.98** and will be available for pick up from the sanctuary on December 18 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 20**.



Tuesday - November 22 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday - December 20 - 6:30 p.m.

GETAWAY WITH US THIS FALL!

Sometimes we all need to get away. But what if your weekend away could have a lasting impact on your faith, mental health, relationships, and community? Join us in person this fall at Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center in Lynchburg. There will be worship, bible study, dozens of breakout opportunities, and space for you to rest and reconnect with God and others. Save the date to attend **Friday-Saturday, November 4-5**. The WMUV annual meeting will take place the afternoon of November 5. Registration for *Getaway 2022* is now open via [Eagle Eyrie's website](#). If you are interested, please see Donna Winebarger for more details.



Collection and blessing of the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be **Sunday, November 6**. OLBC collected **68 shoeboxes** to ship to children around the world. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to this special ministry!

OUR MISSION EMPHASIS GRACE NETWORK

In December we usually have one final emphasis for our missions offering. This year we would like to focus that offering on Grace Network. You will find details about their mission, work, and results in the article on the front page. Can we give our additional mission giving monies to this effort to help those around us in need with food and electricity? Designate your offering to "Grace Network" on your envelope. Every month we have suggested items to bring. In November and December, please help fill the box with Apple Sauce (24-32 oz.), Bath Soap, Toilet Paper, Toothpaste, Dish Detergent, Deodorant and Laundry Detergent.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to all who gave snacks for the Raceway Ministry and pantry items to the Heavenly Manna Food Pantry. Your generosity has no bounds!

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	3	4 Women's Get-Away	5
6 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Shoebox Collection Deacons' Meeting – 5:00 pm	7	8	9 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m. Pastor Search Comm. 7:00 p.m.	10	11	12 Melinda Isley Free Concert – Bring canned food to donate to Grace Network
13 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Covered Dish Thanksgiving Luncheon after Service	14	15	16 Business Meeting 6:00 p.m.	17	18	19
20 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Community Pre-Thanksgiving Service at HJDB Event Center 4PM	21	22 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	23 No Church Activities	24 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	25	26
27 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	28	29	30 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m. Pastor Search Comm. 7:00 p.m.			

Deacon of the Month – Brenda Ferguson

Counters of the Month – Ken Turner & Lance Frith

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	5	6	7 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	8	9	10
11 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Deacons' Mtg. - 5:00 p.m. Newsletter Info Due	12	13	14 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m. Pastor Search Comm. 7:00 p.m.	15	16	17
18 Sunday School – 9:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	19	20 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	21 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Church Secretary on Vacation</div>	22 Church Office Closed	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day Worship Service – 11:00 am	26	27 Church Office Closed	28 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Church Secretary on Vacation</div>	29	30	31

Deacon of the Month – Ben Morris

Counters of the Month – Ben Morris & Brenda Ferguson