

Oak Level Baptist Church

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Volume 47

SHARING THE JOURNEY

November/December 2023

Greetings in the Name above all names, Jesus Christ! As I sit here writing this, we have made it to the month of October; soon it will be Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. We are at the end of another year. I think it's fitting that as this is the November/December newsletter, we should reflect first on what we're thankful for. Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17: *In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.* Paul exhorts us to give thanks in everything - we are not commanded to give thanks for everything. Who would give thanks for sickness or heartbreak or the like? No, we're commanded to give thanks IN everything. We may not always understand God's ways or even His means, but we can still give thanks in all things. Consider the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:8-9: *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed...* So, we may not have had the absolute best experiences every day of the past year, but God has seen us through to this point and He will continue to see us through, for that we can be thankful "in" all things.

The other side of this coin is that we will be entering into the season of Advent. The Advent season is a season of expectation and anticipation. Throughout the season of Advent, we mirror the expectation and anticipation of the world pre-Christ as they waited for God to deliver on His promise to provide deliverance. We echo the words of Isaiah: *For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, the Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this* (Isaiah 9:6-7). How wonderful it is to come to the time of year where we focus on our thankfulness to God for all His blessings and the time of celebrating the arrival of victory through Jesus Christ and the awaiting for His promised return and rule. God bless and keep you as we enter into this time of year. Daniel



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

BUSINESS MEETING

The 2024 budget will be presented on Sunday, November 5 for review. Any changes to the budget will need to be addressed at the quarterly business meeting on **Wednesday, November 15th**. The 2024 budget will be presented for adoption on Sunday, November 19th. It is very important that we have a quorum on these two dates. Please plan to attend the business meeting and the following Sunday.



Collection and blessing of the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes will be **Sunday, November 5**. OLBC collected 62 shoeboxes to ship to children around the world. We still need funds to ship the shoeboxes. If

you have not given to this effort, please consider donating a monetary gift. Each box cost \$10 for shipping.

VOTE TO CALL A FULLTIME PASTOR

The Pastor Search Committee is pleased and happy to announce that after a year of search, much prayer, and consideration, we feel that we have found the candidate that God has for the future of Oak Level Baptist Church. Rev. Dr. Daniel Collins is no stranger to you. Hopefully you have had an opportunity to hear him preach in person or online at some point during the last 10 months that he has been serving as our interim pastor. On **Sunday, November 12th**, we plan to have a vote of the church to accept Dr. Collins as our full-time pastor effective January 1, 2024. On behalf of the Pastor Search Committee, we thank you, the members of Oak Level Baptist Church, for the opportunity to serve you.

Debra Brown, Jesse Cannaday, Lance Frith, and Donna Winebarger

SPECIAL MUSIC & THANKSGIVING MEAL

On **Sunday, November 19**, there is a special service planned to celebrate the Thanksgiving season. There will be NO Sunday School, but special music presented by Roger & Debbie Boyer and Doug Burns at **10:30 a.m.** A covered dish Thanksgiving meal will be held after the worship service. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. Ham and Turkey will be provided by the church.



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**. 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 19**.



Tuesday - November 28 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday - December 19 - 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 3-4**. Registration for Getaway 2023 is now open via Eagle Eyrie's website. If you are interested, please see Donna Winebarger for more details.

HOPE PACK FOR THE GOOD NEWS

JAIL MINISTRY

It is the season, and we are preparing to kick off our annual "Hope Pack" effort for inmates and staff for this holiday season. Each Christmas season your Chaplain and Chaplaincy Support Team coordinates a ministry of the community to touch inmates and staff at the Martinsville City Jail and Henry County Adult Detention Center. We collect funds to purchase items to fill a small gift bag for the inmates, and to provide some candy bars and chocolates for the staff as well. Your donation will purchase items to go into a small bag to share God's Love with inmates. There will be some practical hygiene items like socks, toothpaste, soap, Shampoo, & deodorant, as well as some candy and snacks, The Correction's Staff receive bags too, but the Chaplain's Chocolate and snacks continue to be given out to officers in the following weeks as a reminder of the chaplain's ministry. I hope you will prayerfully consider adding this outreach to your Christmas list! Joining with many other partners we will fill around 270 bags for Sheriff's Office Staff and 450 bags for the inmates of the two facilities served.

In Christ,
 Joe Collins, Chaplain



WMU WATCHWORD

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." — Romans 12:12 (NIV)

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	2	3	4 Daniel Collins – Reserve Duty Weekend
					Women's Get-Away	
5 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Shoebox Collection/Blessing Guest Speaker	6	7	8 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	9	10	11
12 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	13	14	15 Business Meeting 6:00 p.m.	16	17	18
	Daniel Collins at BGAV Annual Meeting					
19 No Sunday School Special Music – 10:30 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Vote on 2024 Budget Thanksgiving Luncheon following Worship Service	20	21	22 No Church Activities	23 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	24	25
26 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	27	28 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	29 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting 7:00 p.m.	30		

Deacon of the Month – Donna Winebarger

Counters of the Month – Ken Turner & Lance Frith

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Daniel Collins – Reserve Duty Weekend
3 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Guest Speaker	4	5	6 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	7	8	9
10 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Newsletter Info Due	11	12	13 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m.	14	15	16
17 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am	18	19 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	20 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 5px;">Church Secretary on Vacation</div>	21 Church Office Closed	22	23
24 Communion Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Serv. – 11:00 am	25 Christmas Day	26 Church Office Closed	27 PTS Meeting 6:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting 7:00 p.m. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 5px;">Church Secretary on Vacation</div>	28	29	30
31 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Serv. – 11:00 am						

Deacon of the Month – Ben Morris

Counters of the Month – Ben Morris & Brenda Ferguson