

Oak Level Baptist Church

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Volume 48

SHARING THE JOURNEY

November/December 2024

Greetings in the name above all names, the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Welcome to the final newsletter for the year 2024. Can you believe that as quickly as 2024 got here, it's almost over? We have been experiencing some rich blessings over this year and I know we will experience even more in the coming year! As we come to the November/December newsletter we are in anticipation of the holiday season coming up and all the things that come with that. We are so thankful that we get to see the end of another year; we know not what the new year will bring but we trust God the whole way.

That being said, I want to encourage everyone to make prayer a priority. Being as how Veteran's Day is in November I want to quote the story of Patton's prayer. If you've ever seen the movie "Patton" you've seen the fictionalization of this prayer, but I feel it's necessary that we know the whole story and how it can help our prayer life.

In the latter days of World War II, December 1944, a rainy and foggy weather situation was hampering the Third Army's efforts to break through and relieve the city of Bastogne. General Patton called on his chaplain, Chaplain (Colonel) James O'Neill, to come up with a prayer for the weather. If there was to be a victory, the weather would have to cooperate. Chaplain O'Neill searched a number of prayer books and couldn't come up with a suitable prayer, so he wrote the following prayer: *Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we've had to contend. Grant us fair weather for battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies and establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen.*

In a talk with the chaplain, General Patton emphasized the importance of prayer, no matter where or under what circumstances. The "end of the story" as Paul Harvey used to say, is that the weather broke, and the Third Army was able to relieve the city of Bastogne.

Prayer is not a substitute for effort and work, but it is an indispensable ingredient in our life. If we are to achieve victory, deliverance, and blessing, we must be a people of prayer. May we end this year in prayer thanking God for His blessings and invoking His presence in every aspect of our lives.

Daniel
Philippians 4:13

**You can read the entire story of Patton's prayer by going to the following website: <http://pattonhq.com/prayer.html>



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 Doug Ramsey
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	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

BUSINESS MEETING

The 2025 budget will be presented on Sunday, November 3 for review. Any changes to the budget will need to be addressed at the quarterly business meeting on **Wednesday, November 13th**. The 2025 budget will be presented for adoption on Sunday, November 17th. 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 3**. OLBC has assembled 60 shoeboxes to ship to children around the world. We still need funds to ship the shoeboxes. We

only have funds to ship about 40 boxes. If you have not given to this effort, please consider donating a monetary gift. Each box cost \$10 for shipping.

VETERANS DAY SERVICE & THANKSGIVING MEAL

On **Sunday, November 10**, there is a special service planned to celebrate Veterans and the Thanksgiving season. Be sure to invite any veterans you know, so we can honor their service to our country. Please provide the name of a veteran currently serving or has served you'd like to be included in the Veteran's Day Sunday bulletin insert. Email Pastor Daniel or Sheila by Sunday, November 3. A covered dish Thanksgiving meal will be held after the worship service. Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share. Ham will be provided by the church.

DISASTER RELIEF FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICAN HELENE & MILTON

Please consider ways to help to connect with our BGAV missions partners Impact Disaster Response (formerly Virginia Baptist Disaster Response). Impact Disaster Response continues to respond in Damascus, Virginia and surrounding areas. They are completing the cleanup and chainsaw jobs and shifting to repair and rebuild as homes that were damaged dry. Trained chainsaw teams are being sent to North Carolina and trained flood recovery teams to Florida. Continue in prayer for these efforts and continue to help by giving or volunteering in any way you can. OLBC will take up a special offering on **Sunday, November 17**, to send to the BGAV efforts.



PANCAKES WITH SANTA

OLBC will be hosting a community event on **Saturday, December 7**, from 9-11:00 am with "Pancakes with Santa." We will be serving pancakes and Santa will be our

special guest. Bring your family and neighbors for this time of fellowship. Don't forget your camera for those pictures with Santa. A special invitation is being mailed to the Oak Level community to join the church family for this event. Mark your calendar and make your plans now to attend!



Tuesday - November 26 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday - December 17 - 6:30 p.m.

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! Again, this year we have begun taking monetary donations for Hope Packs and will assemble and deliver those in late December. I hope you will be able to provide hope to an inmate again this year with your help, gifts, and cards.

In Christ,

Joe Collins, Chaplain

*OLBC will collect a special offering on **Sunday, December 8** to support the "Hope Pack" ministry.

JESUS IS THE REASON



"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, Counsellor, 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 (KJV)

November 2024

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

Deacon of the Month – Donna Winebarger

Counters of the Month – Ken Turner & Linda Poore

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am First Sunday of Advent	2	3	4 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	5	6	7 Pancakes With Santa 9-11 am
8 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Second Sunday of Advent Newsletter Info Due	9	10	11 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.	12	13	14
15 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Third Sunday of Advent	16	17 WMU Meeting 6:30 p.m.	18 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting 7:00 p.m.	19 Church Secretary on Vacation	20	21
22 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Service – 11:00 am Fourth Sunday of Advent	23	24 Church Office Closed Christmas Eve	25 Church Office Closed Christmas Day No Church Activities	26 Church Secretary on Vacation	27	28
29 Sunday School – 9:45 am Worship Serv. – 11:00 am First Sunday of Christmas	30	31 Church Secretary on Vacation				