

## PAUL HARVEY'S ; "THE MAN AND THE BIRDS"

Now the man to whom I'm going to introduce you was not a scrooge, he was a kind, decent, mostly good man. Generous to his family, upright in his dealings with other men. But he just didn't believe all that incarnation stuff which the churches proclaim at Christmas Time. It just didn't make sense and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just couldn't swallow the Jesus Story, about God coming to Earth as a man. "I'm truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife, "but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve." He said he'd feel like a hypocrite. That he'd much rather just stay at home, but that he would wait up for them. And so he stayed and they went to the midnight service.

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper. Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. Then another, and then another. Sort of a thump or a thud. At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against his living room window. But when he went to the front door to investigate he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They'd been caught in the storm and, in a desperate search for shelter, had tried to fly through his large landscape window.

Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter, if he could direct the birds to it. Quickly he put on a coat, galoshes, tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light, but the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them in. So he hurried back to the house, fetched bread crumbs, sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail to the yellow-lighted wide open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs, and continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them. He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around them waving his arms. Instead, they scattered in every direction, except into the warm, lighted barn.

And then, he realized, that they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me. That I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how? Because any move he made tended to frighten them, confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooed because they feared him. "If only I could be a bird," he thought to himself, "and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to safe, warm ...to the safe warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see, and hear and understand."



Okatee  
BAPTIST CHURCH

GREETINGS, YOU WHO ARE

*Highly Favored*

THE LORD IS WITH YOU

*Luke 1:28*

*Okatee Baptist Church exists as a family of baptized believers in Jesus Christ who are dedicated to prayer, evangelism, worship, ministry, missions and fellowship through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.*

Rev. Woody Oliver / Pastor  
Dr. Tim Searcy / Associate Pastor

December 10, 2023

## THE LORD'S DAY

December 10, 2023

Lighting of the Advent Candle Michael & Esther Robbins

Call to Worship  
"Children Go Where I Send Thee" Choir

Prayer / Welcome / Greeting Pastor Woody

Worship in Song  
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Hymn #196

Family Prayer Time / (Children Dismissed for Children's Church)

Lottie Moon Mission Offering Emphasis Video

Special Music  
"Noel" Praise Team

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Message "Greetings Favored One"  
Luke 1: 46-55 Pastor Woody

Response  
"What Child is This" Hymn #198

### Offertory Prayer and Benediction

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### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is provided in the Education Building for children K-4. Children will be dismissed after Family Prayer Time.

### WELCOME

Welcome to Okatee Baptist Church. Thank you for worshiping with us today. Okatee Baptist Church values biblical stewardship and we praise God for your generosity in supporting the ministries of our church and the spread of the Gospel where we live, work, and play. An offering plate is located on a table in the center aisle for your convenience.

**OKATEE BAPTIST CHURCH, 5467 N. OKATIE HWY., RIDGELAND, SC 29936  
843-987-0885**

## ATTENDANCE

Worship Service / 115 Sunday School / 63  
Sunday Evening / 37 Wed. Evening / 41

### OUR PEOPLE GAVE

Weekly Budget: \$ 7,265.17 Budget Offering: \$ 10,049.00

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### FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>

**Sun 12/10** 5:00pm Memorial Service  
6:00pm Children's Christmas Program Practice

**Mon 12/11** 1:00pm WOM

**Tues 12/12** 11:30am Morning Prayer Gathering

**Wed 12/13** 6:00pm Fellowship Meal  
7:00pm Choir Practice

**Sun 12/17** 9:45am Sunday School  
11:00am Worship Service - Choir Cantata  
5:00pm Children's Christmas Program

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### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Earl and Yvonne Price  
348 Battle Harbor Lane  
Ridgeland, SC 29936

### ADMIN OFFICE CLOSED 12/11 THROUGH 12/18

Pam will be out of the office Monday, December 11th through Monday, December 18th. If you need assistance, prior to December 19th, please call Pastor Woody at 864-554-7335 instead of leaving a message on the office phone. Thank you.

**Website: [Okateebaptist.com](http://Okateebaptist.com); Youtube.com@okateebaptistchurch;  
Facebook.com: Okatee Baptist Church**