



SONLIGHT NEWSLETTER

The mission of Okatee Baptist Church is to grow a family of baptized believers in Jesus Christ who are dedicated to evangelism, worship, ministry, missions and fellowship through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

DR. TIM SEARCY (Dr. T)

Interim Pastor

IT IS FINISHED... NOW WHAT?

When Jesus cried out from the cross, “It is finished,” He was not expressing defeat, but declaring victory. In that moment, the work of redemption was complete. The debt of sin was paid in full. The sacrifice had been made once for all. Nothing could be added to it, and nothing could take away from it. But for us who stand on this side of the cross and the empty tomb, an important question remains: *Now what?*

If “it is finished” means the work of salvation is complete, then our response is not to strive to earn God’s favor, but to receive it by faith. We do not live to achieve salvation—we live from it. Too often, we fall back into the mindset that we must prove ourselves worthy. Yet the cross reminds us that Jesus has already done what we never could. The first answer to “now what?” is this: **rest in what Christ has finished.** Trust Him fully. Stop carrying what He has already carried for you.

But resting in Christ does not mean remaining idle. The finished work of Jesus leads us into a transformed life. Because He has finished the work of redemption, we are now called to walk in newness of life. The cross was not only the end of something—it was the beginning of something. Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. The second answer to “now what?” is: **live differently.** Let the reality of the cross shape your priorities, your attitudes, and your daily choices.

“It is finished” also means that the barrier between God and man has been removed. The veil was torn. Access has been granted. We are invited into a relationship with God that is personal and ongoing. Therefore, “now what?” becomes: **draw near to God.** Spend time with Him. Speak with Him in prayer. Open His Word. Walk with Him daily. The cross did not just rescue you from sin—it restored you to fellowship.

And there is more. The finished work of Christ carries with it a mission. Jesus did not say, “It is finished,” so that the story would end, but so that it could be proclaimed. Those who have received this grace are now sent to share it. The message of the cross is not meant to be hidden; it is meant to be heralded. So we ask again, “now what?” The answer: **go and tell.** Tell your family. Tell your neighbors. Tell the world that there is hope because Jesus has finished the work.

Finally, “it is finished” gives us confidence for the future. Because the work is complete, our hope is secure. We do not live in uncertainty, wondering if enough has been done. We live in assurance, knowing that Christ has accomplished all that is necessary. Therefore, “now what?” becomes: **live with hope.** No matter what you face, the victory of the cross stands firm.

“It is finished.” Those words changed everything. And now, because of them, we rest, we live, we draw near, we go, and we hope—all in the shadow of a cross that stands as the final word on our salvation.

In Christ,

Dr. Tim Searcy

FELLOWSHIP OF DEACONS

Leader: **Jim Phillips**

UPCOMING EVENTS

WHY IS FELLOWSHIP WITHIN A LOCAL CHURCH VITAL FOR THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

In today's world we have the idea that believers can be Christians-at-large without being connected to anyone. Because of this, the church has been robbed of its opportunity to be the means of supporting, encouraging, and strengthening of the body of Christ. The local church needs to be a place where hurting people can come and find strength and nourishment for their souls.

The command to encourage one another is found five times in the New Testament, telling us in no uncertain terms that we are responsible for the encouragement of others. Romans 12:3-8 says: For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence, he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Verse 5 says we are members of one another, not just members of the church. That means we have a responsibility to one another to relate to and encourage one another. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor, for if they fall, one will lift up his companion, but woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up, and in the church, nobody should ever be that person alone. When we fall down, we need someone to help us get back up. We need that ministry of encouragement. God has uniquely designed the church in such a way that we have a responsibility to get involved with one another. We are to minister concern for one another consistently. One of the important ministries for all who call themselves Christians is the ministry of encouraging one another.

The Bible says that if you are a Christian, you have been given a gift of service from God. It is not only ministers that have this calling--it is everyone. Ephesians 4:7 says: But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. We are saved by his grace, and we are called to serve Him by his grace. And if we don't do that, we miss out on the best God has for us.

As Christians, we can fellowship and serve at our local churches in many ways. Taking part in the Bible studies and other ministry programs at Okatee Baptist allows you to spend time with and get to know other Christians. Take the time to determine your spiritual gifts and look for ways to use it at Okatee. Your gift may be used to be a member of one of our ministry teams, teach Sunday School, or be a greeter before services. There are countless ways to get involved and serve your fellow Christians.

Involvement in a small group is a vital part of growing together. In the early days of the church they continued daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house. Remember small groups are not retreats from the rest of the congregations, not personal inner circles, but they are Biblical in nature. We use small groups to gain strength from one another.

God's plan for you as a Christian is not just to sit back and enjoy your salvation but to use you in the gospel ministry of Okatee Baptist Church. As you fellowship with others at Okatee, get to know them, and grow alongside them, and you will find ways to serve them.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays, 10:30am

A new 8 week Ladies Bible Study by Anne Graham Lotz, "Jesus in Me", begins APRIL 7. Contact Marilyn Janosko for more information. 580-917-8088. Meets in Education Bldg.

WOM at CANTERFIELD

Monday, April 13th at 1pm

Meet at Canterfield for Easter Party with Memory Care Unit.

WOM LADIES LUNCHEON

Saturday, April 25, 12-2pm

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, April 15 / 6pm

With an Italian Theme, the church will provide drinks. Please bring Italian entrees, sides or desserts. Call Judy Hinds at 843-705-9135 or email her at rhinds2@sc.rr.com.

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 18 / 8am

All men and boys are invited for good food, fellowship, and a challenge for men.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, April 29th / 6pm

If you have any business to come before the church, please let Jim Phillips know before the meeting so you can be added to the agenda.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

Available in church foyer or by calling the church office at 843-987-0885. You can also contact your Deacon if you would like them to bring you a copy.



Your WOM group is on the move again! We will be back at Canterfield on April 13 to celebrate Easter with the Memory Care residents! We had a wonderful time with them for our February meeting to celebrate Valentine’s Day, so we thought it would be good to repeat for Easter. Meet at Canterfield at 1pm April 13th instead of at the church.

Please plan to be with us on Saturday, April 25, for the Women’s Luncheon! We will have good food, fellowship, a devotion and music! Please reserve this day, April 25, 12:00-2:00 for this event! Church members are free. There will be a \$10 fee for visitors and take out plates! Invite all your friends and family ladies to join us!! The food list will be ham, potato salad, green beans, carrots, fruit salad, rolls and desserts!! See Janet Phillips for a ticket for this event. You will need a ticket for yourself, your guest(s) and take out plates so that we can plan for food items.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY Team Leaders: Ted & Marilyn Janosko

April 25th - USCB Baseball. Saturday at 2:00 pm Richard Gray Sports Complex in Hardeeville. Meet at the church at 1:00pm.

May 18th - Savannah Riverboat Cruise. A buffet supper with Gospel singing as you cruise the Savannah River. Cost is approximately \$90. Sign up will be available in April.

Coming in June is a possible trip to the Kazoo Factory in Beaufort.

July 18th, Kelly Tours Blast from the Past Performance. Cost \$194 - Moranz Show in the Charleston Theater and lunch at the Charleston Crab House at 11:30am. More details to come.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY Director: Gail Lenga

A Family Easter egg hunt will be held Saturday, April 4th from 10am to noon. Bring your baskets to fill with eggs. Pizza will be provided after the hunt.

Please continue to pray for more volunteers for our nursery. Thank you for allowing us to minister and share God’s word to your children. Happy Easter to all.



- 6th Gail Lenga
- 6th Stan Smith
- 9th David Atterberry
- 18th Yvonne Price
- 19th Debbie Neal
- 23rd Ted Janosko
- 30th Jimmy Padgett

CHILDREN’S CHURCH
Gail Lenga & Connie Randolph

APRIL ANNIVERSARY

- 4/6 Jim & Janet Phillips
- 4/12 Ted & Marilyn Janosko
- 4/16 Chris & Carrie Campbell

APRIL NURSERY

- 5th Connie C. & Louise P.
- 12th Kara Malphrus
- 19th Esther R. & Earline W.
- 26th Gail Temple

DEACON OF THE WEEK

March 29 - April 4 / Ron West
404-218-2633

April 5 - 11 / Dave Atterberry
817-999-7695

April 12 - 18 / Jim Campbell
970-531-3378

April 19 - 25 / Don Cormier
843-812-7957

April 26 - May 2 / Roger Woods
912-441-5335

REMEMBERING THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND CHURCH

Please remember our church members who are no longer able to attend church by sending cards to them. Those members are listed under "Homebound" on the prayer list that is sent out weekly. Their addresses are in the directory distributed in March at the church or by calling the church office (843-987-0885).

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Leader: Chris Campbell

The Pastor Search Team is continuing the diligent search for the man that God has chosen to lead this flock. We had thought we started to narrow the search down, but God showed us that wasn't what He had planned. Instead, we've expanded our postings and are receiving resumes weekly. Please continue to keep the church, the search team, and our future pastor in your prayers.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PAT TUPPER

A memorial service for Pat Tupper will be held at Okatee Baptist Church at 11am Saturday, April 11th. (Please note the time change.) There will be a light luncheon following the service for all who would like to attend.

