

## THE SCHEDULE / DECEMBER

### Sunday Morning Sermon Series

December 03	Hope Isaiah 9:1-7
December 10	Greetings Favored One Luke 1:26-55
December 17	Adult Christmas Cantata
December 24	The Man Who Invented Christmas Matt 1:8
December 31	Building Community 1 Thess. 5:1-11

### Sunday Evening Bible Study / Activities

December 03	Name that Christmas tune	6:00
December 10	Memorial Service	5:00
December 17	Children's Play	5:00
December 24	Christmas Eve Service	5:00
December 31	Continuous Bible Reading	3:00-7:00

### Wednesday Evening Bible Study

December 06	Business Meeting
December 13	Christmas Fellowship Meal
December 20	No Evening Activities
December 27	No Evening Activities

## THE NUMBERS

	<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
November 05	101	\$8,889.00
November 12	90	\$3,359.43
November 19	104	\$4,620.00
November 26	101	\$20,365.00

**REPORT FROM THE DEACONS** In November, the deacons met and welcomed two new deacons, Ted Janosko and Roger Woods to the deacon board. Jim Phillips was voted to be Chairman of the deacon board and David Bub will continue as Vice Chairman. Ted Janosko is the Secretary. A list of updates were discussed and prioritized to better the church. We are looking forward to being good servants of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The next Deacons' Meeting will be in January 2024 with the date to be announced.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS** Donna Horsman has been painting the exterior doors on Sanctuary and Ed Bldg. Roger Woods and Trent Randolph replaced the water heater in the out back closet. Roger Woods and Dave Durham have been working on the Baptismal pump. We are replacing the ceiling lights in the pavilion. At the same time, an electrician will make sense of the electric panel. He will also be putting in an outlet under the sink to accommodate instant hot water. Good people doing good work.

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS TEAM** The Constitution and Bylaws Team has completed the new Church Handbook to be voted on during our December Business Meeting. Copies are available in the back of the Sanctuary.

**STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE TEAM** The finance committee has been working on introducing a benevolence fund to the church. We recognize that from time-to-time hardship arises. When we have communion, there will be a separate offering plate that will be available for donations to be made to the benevolence fund. The fund will be dispersed by the pastor, as needs arise and the fund permits.

**CHILDREN'S TEAM** As we approach the Christmas season, we have an increased awareness of the Greatest Gift that was given to humanity which is the gift that God gave to us all with the birth of His Son Jesus Christ. We also, during this season want to share our love by also giving small gifts to friends and families as we celebrate Christmas. We are reminded that throughout the year of 2023, Okatee Baptist Church has been truly blessed with the dedication and caring of all those who so generously give of their time and talent as we spread the Word of God within the community. Especially we want to thank those who are dedicated in their efforts to teach God's Word to our children.

Throughout 2023, we planned a number of activities geared toward children, with great support from our church family, that have been successful as an outreach within our community. Next year, 2024, we have additional activities planned for our children and their families, as well as repeating those that were successfully implemented this year.

As we expand our Sunday School and Children's Church population, we need additional volunteers that are willing to assist the teachers that are already in place. We need someone to act as a backup for Gail Temple who will be leaving Children's Church as a teacher and now will teach a Sunday School class for children grades 2, 3, 4 and 5. We will need a replacement for her in Children's Church. We also need additional volunteers for our Nursery during Sunday School. If you can help in any of these positions, please contact Marsha Morgan at 304-545-6142.

Thanks again to all the individuals that give their time to teach our children in both Sunday School and in Children's Church as well as assisting in the Nursery.

