



OKATEE BAPTIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2025

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.

THANKFUL IN EVERY SEASON FINDING GRATITUDE EVEN IN HARDSHIP



November is a time when gratitude is on everyone's lips. We gather around tables, share meals with loved ones, and reflect on the blessings of the past year. But for many people, this season also comes with a quiet ache—a loved one is missing, an illness lingers, a job has been lost, or life simply isn't turning out the way we expected. It can be hard to feel thankful when the heart is heavy.

The Bible reminds us, however, that thanksgiving isn't just for the easy seasons. "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Those words from the Apostle Paul weren't written from a comfortable home or a holiday feast—they came from a man who often wrote from prison cells, faced persecution, and carried deep burdens for the churches he loved. His gratitude wasn't based on how well things were going. It was rooted in the unchanging goodness of God.

Thanksgiving in hardship is not about pretending pain doesn't exist. It's about remembering that God is still at work in the midst of it. When we give thanks in difficult seasons, we declare our trust in God's character, not just His blessings. Paul wrote to the Philippians, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you... for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3–5). He was in chains, but his heart was free—free to rejoice, free to trust, free to give thanks.

Many of us have learned that some of the deepest gratitude is born in the darkest times. It's when the noise is stripped away that we begin to see more clearly the daily mercies of God: the friend who calls, the small provision that arrives at just the right moment, the quiet strength He gives to take one more step. Gratitude in these moments is not shallow—it's a powerful act of faith.

This November, whether your heart is overflowing with joy or weighed down by burden, I encourage you to pause and give thanks—not for every situation, but in every situation. Give thanks that God is near to the brokenhearted. Give thanks that He is faithful even when we are weak. Give thanks that His love is unchanging and His promises remain sure.

Let this be a season where we don't just count our blessings when life is easy, but where we choose gratitude as an anchor in the storm. A thankful heart doesn't erase the hard places, but it does remind us that we are never alone in them. God walks with us. And for that, we can always give thanks.

In Christ,
Dr. Tim Searcy

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Leader: Chris Campbell

Thank you to all who completed the Congregational Questionnaire. It will definitely be useful to us as we continue the process of calling our next pastor. Our next step is to develop a pastor profile and start soliciting resumes.

Please continue to pray for the Pastor Search Team, that God will give us His wisdom and discernment as He leads us through this process. We also ask that you keep the Church and the Pastor that God has chosen for us in your prayers.

FELLOWSHIP OF DEACONS

Leader: Jim Phillips

FOR WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL?

The calendar says Thanksgiving this month as it always does in November. The Bible says Thanksgiving is a fundamental aspect of faith, involving constant praise and thankfulness to God in all circumstances, acknowledging Him as the sources of all good things. Key Biblical teachings on Thanksgiving include being thankful in every situation, expressing gratitude through prayer and praise, and recognizing that every perfect gift comes from God. The Bible encourages believers to give thanks for spiritual blessings and faithfulness, to remember God's goodness and faithfulness, and to live a life of thankfulness.

This year, as we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, let's remember to celebrate the greatest gift of all — salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are Bible verses to help you reflect on the abundant blessings of God.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18: Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

PSALM 103:1-4: Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all His benefits — who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 (NKJV): As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

ISAIAH 12:4-5 (NASB): And on that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make them remember that His name is exalted." Praise the LORD in song, for He has done glorious things; let this be known throughout the earth.

JAMES 1:17: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

1 CHRONICLES 16:34 (ESV): Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15: Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Yes November is a time of thanksgiving. As you see every day should be a time of thanksgiving. I am thankful for each one of you as my brother or sister in Christ. You are an important part of Okatee Baptist Church. I encourage each of you to express your thankfulness to God each day. I pray for you to have a holiday season blessed with good health and safe travel. I look forward to seeing you at our next worship experience.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS TEAM

Team Leaders: Chris Campbell & Michael Robbins

Thank you to everyone who was able to come out for the Church Work Day! It was a huge success, and we were able to complete several little projects around the campus. We're already starting to plan our next workday in the spring!

Things are still slowly progressing with the sanctuary repair. I received word from the insurance company that decisions have been made and they're finalizing their estimate. Once that is done, we'll be able to coordinate with Delta Roofing to get the work started.

Like we mentioned last month, it can be frustrating when work has stopped and it's not going as we hoped, but it's important for us to stay the course and trust God in this process. We thank Him that He's provided so much for us during this and I believe He'll continue to do so. Please continue to keep the Building & Grounds Team, Brotherhood, Delta Roofing, Euro Construction, and all of our upcoming projects in your prayers.

WOMEN ON MISSION

Director: Janet Phillips

WOM is busy this fall. We had a really good Women's Luncheon October 11th with great fellowship, food and singing. Items for the prisoner packets are now being purchased. We will add items to the packets at our November 10th meeting. The packets will then be delivered to Columbia where Christian materials will be added to encourage the prisoners to accept Jesus as their Savior.

Some ladies are working on Toboggans and lap pads for the residents at Canterfield. We have some ladies visiting there monthly and our group plans to make quarterly visits beginning next year. Thank you, Kay Kingan, for leading this ministry for us.

WOM has been asked if we could help provide small toys to the Moss Creek Pregnancy Center for the small brothers and sisters of infants who come with their mothers to get help from the center. WOM will help meet this need for the center.

Some of you know that we had to replace our Blessing Box. We have a new one up and it is filled now. Thanks to Mike Robbins for his help in getting this completed. We will be advertising several ways in the next couple of weeks. If you have an idea for advertising, please let me know! I also want to thank Chris and Carrie Campbell and Roger and Earline Woods for their help getting our Blessing Box up and running last year, and all who donated food or money for this as well.

I am checking with the senior center to ask for a list of their needs. WOM allotted money in our budget to help them this year.

Thank you for supporting us to represent Okatee Baptist Church in service to the Lord in our community and beyond. Please continue to pray for us as we participate in being God's hands to those in need!

This is a picture of the ladies who were present at our November WOM Meeting when we began the Blessing Box Ministry. If you have any questions regarding this ministry, ask one of the WOM ladies.



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY TRIPS

Team Leaders: Ted and Marilyn Janosko

"Thanks to all that contacted Kelly Tours for the rail/bus trip to Charleston on December 13th. We have 28 folks going. We will receive an email and hard copy of the trip details the end of November. To answer someone's question, both the train and bus have restrooms.

We are trying to determine the timing for a possible gift exchange in December, sometimes called a Dirty Santa or White Elephant exchange. Details to follow."



2nd Gary Rossy
6th Shelley Battle
8th Nell Simmons
10th Bonnie Altman
12th Kay Kingan
12th Jack Durbin
16th Sandy Jackson
19th Janet Phillips
22nd Diana Cox
24th Paul Pender
24th Earline Woods
28th Sharon Wastowicz



NOVEMBER

3rd Will & Leigh Womble
20th Andy & Linda Arruza
22nd Earl & Yvonne Price
23rd David & Marsha Atterberry
26th Jim & Eloise Murphy

NOVEMBER NURSERY

2nd Connie C. & Louise P.
9th Kara Malphrus
16th Esther R. & Earline W.
23rd Gail Temple
30th Gail Temple

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Gail Lenga
Constance Randolph

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Nov. 2 to 8 / Robert Pressley
864-614-3898

Nov. 9 to 15 / Ted Janosko
580-917-6000

Nov. 16 to 22 / Don Cormier
843-812-7957

Nov. 23 to 29 / Ron West
404-218-2633

Nov. 30 to Dec. 6 / David Atterberry
817-999-7695

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

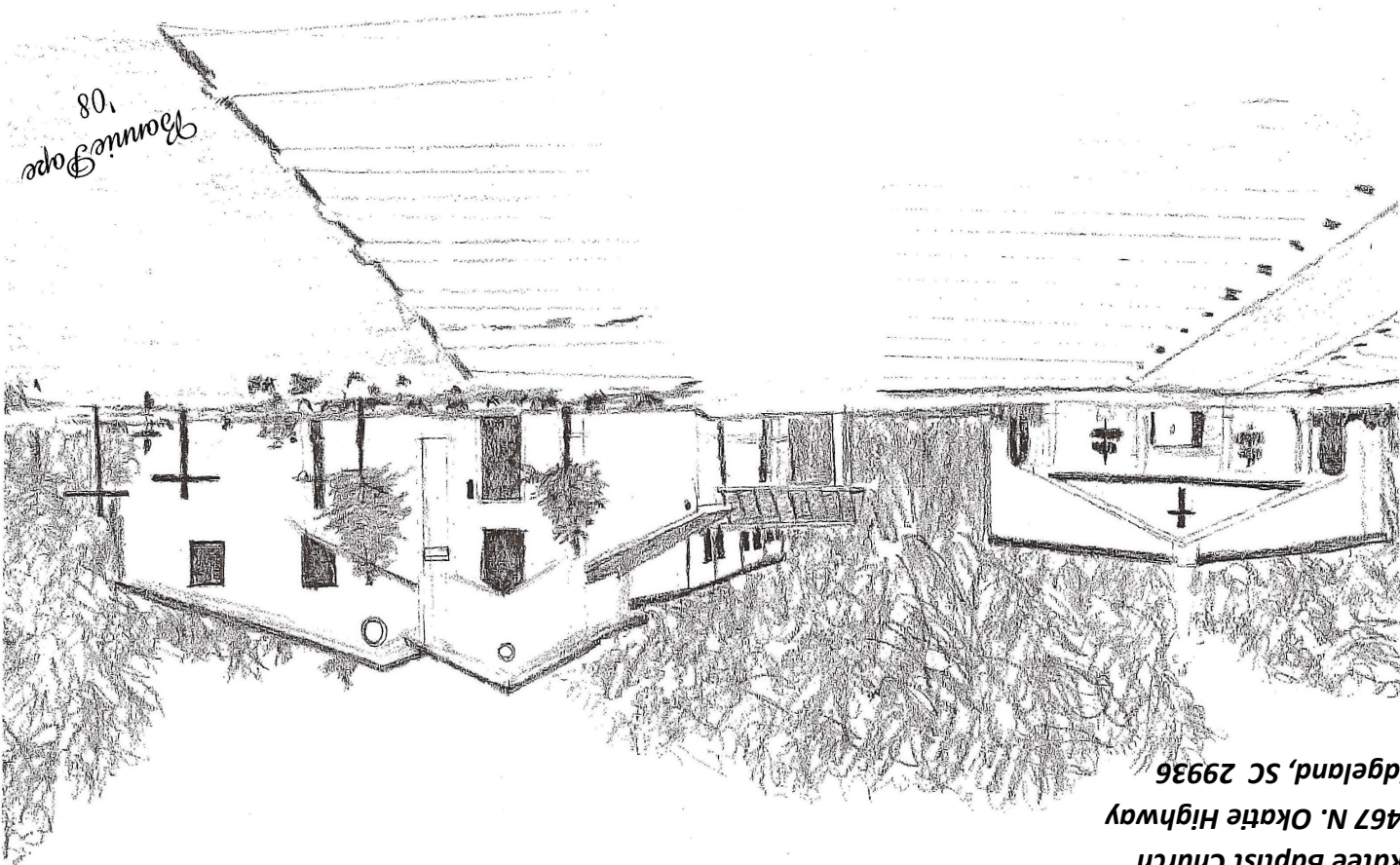
Leader: Marilyn Janosko

The final two meetings of the Bad Girls of the Bible Study are Thursday November 6 and 13 at 10:30. There will be a break until January 2026. Information on the Title of the Study and how to register will be in the December Newsletter.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Leader: Gail Lenga

A huge thank you to all that helped with Family Fall Fest. We had a great time despite the rain. We had over 100 adults and children that came out to participate.



Okatee Baptist Church
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