

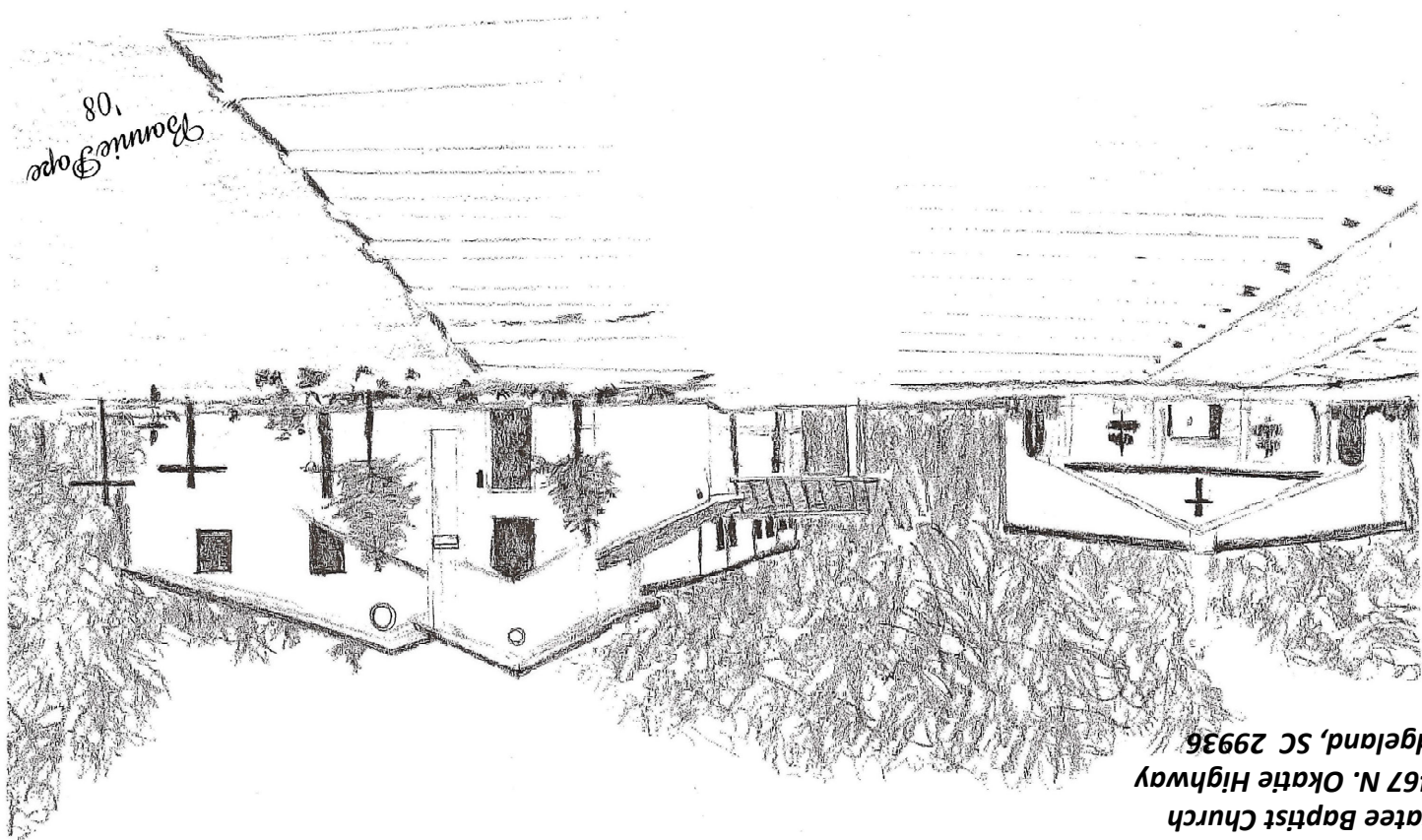


### CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION DAY

**SAVE THE DATE Saturday, May 11th** (Raindate: May 18th)  
Church Beautification Day is Saturday, May 11th beginning at 9:00am. We plan on putting down bark mulch, planting flowers, cleaning the pavilion and the front ditch. We will then have a hot dog cookout. We need many hands to make work light. Hope everyone can come and enjoy work and fellowship. We need workers, wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes.

### VBS SPORTS CAMP 2024 SAVE THE DATE: June 17-21

Okatee Baptist Church in partnership with UW Sports will present a sports camp for 1 week in June with the Gospel of Jesus Christ the focus of the experience. UW Sports Ministry is an equipping ministry that enhances the vision of the Church by providing sports-related resources for the effective communication of the gospel. UW Sports will provide a team to run the camp and Okatee Baptist Church will provide people to serve in the following areas: food team, security, registration, set up, prayer warriors, and administration. Each year, we average 37 workers to serve to assist the UW Team to share the Gospel and develop relationships with the campers and their families. Sign up will begin on April 14th.



**Okatee Baptist Church**  
5467 N. Okatee Highway  
Ridgeland, SC 29936

OKATEE BAPTIST CHURCH, APRIL 2024



# 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.*

## A Letter From The Pastor

On July 5, 2020, I preached my first sermon as interim pastor of Okatee Baptist Church. As the interim pastor, I spent time in the following months surveying the structural organization of our church, and I was reminded of Nehemiah surveying the destroyed wall that surrounded Jerusalem. The wall and gates around Jerusalem was in ruins, and our church was experiencing challenges navigating the death of our pastor, Covid 19 closings, the closing of our licensed daycare, deacon depletion due to a death and 2 moves, and declining attendance. Many churches were experiencing operational challenges during the Covid 19 season, yet Okatee Baptist Church seemed to be in the midst of a storm.

A year later on July 11, 2021, our church, through a Special Business Meeting, called me to be the official pastor of Okatee Baptist Church. God had laid on my heart to 'follow Him' in this divinely appointed assignment and pastor a church with an incredible facility, no debt, and great people willing to see God's kingdom to grow. Before the end of the year, I proposed an evangelistic goal of baptizing 100 people in 2022 because we are called to witness about the Gospel of Jesus Christ that saved us to an eternity with God. We didn't reach that goal in 2022! In fact we didn't even come close, but that is not to say that our strong involvement in missions didn't help produce many baptisms that we don't know about.

Even though we didn't baptize 100 people in 2022, the number 100 stuck with me, and when I was leading our Wednesday night Bible study through the Book of Ezra, I was struck by the celebration by the priests, Levites, and the people in chapter 16 when the newly rebuilt Temple was dedicated. They celebrated with 100 bulls, 200 rams, and 400 male lambs. They celebrated in a big way! I thought that we ought to celebrate when the hundredth person joins Okatee Baptist Church beginning when I became the pastor. Well, we are at 99 people who have joined, and we continue to see many visitors and guests joining us for our services.

So, what will it take to reach 100+ people who desire to partner with us in sharing the gospel, expanding God's kingdom here on earth, and being a positive force in our culture?

Answer: **WE NEED TO FOLLOW JESUS AND WITNESS!**

Prepare yourselves and invite your friends and neighbors to join us as we journey 'Every Believer a Witness' on Sunday mornings. Each of have been saved by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so we must, in turn, share the good news that has impacted our lives.

Your Partner and Pastor,

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### STAFF

Woody Oliver, Pastor

Dr. Tim Searcy, Assoc. Pastor

Suzanne Tomlinson, Choir Dir.

Judy Altman, Treasurer

Pam Seibert, Admin. Assist.

Dena Oliver, Facilities

843-987-0885



Okatee Baptist Church



Okatee Baptist Church



Okateebaptist.com



# Every Believer a Witness

April 07	Follow Me	John 21	Dr. Tim Searcy
April 14	Why Witness	Matthew 28:16-20	Pastor Woody
April 21	The How	Acts 26:1-23	Pastor Woody
April 28	No Fear	2 Timothy 1:3-8	Pastor Woody
May 05	Tell Your Story	John 9	Pastor Woody

## THE UNWAVERING RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE Dr. Tim Searcy

In a world filled with uncertainty, one thing remains steadfast—the reliability of the Bible. As believers, we are blessed to have a divine book that serves as our compass, guiding us through life's trials and triumphs.

The Bible stands as a testament to its own reliability through its historical accuracy, fulfilled prophecies, and transformative power. Its accounts of ancient civilizations, geographical locations, and cultural practices have been validated time and again by archaeological discoveries. The prophecies foretold in its pages have come to fruition with astonishing precision, confirming its divine inspiration.

Moreover, the Bible's enduring impact on individuals and societies attests to its transformative power. Countless lives have been changed, hearts have been softened, and hope has been restored through its timeless message of love, redemption, and grace.

While skeptics may question its reliability, we can rest assured in the unchanging truth of God's Word. As Psalm 119:89 declares, "Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens."

Let us continue to treasure and study the Bible, allowing its timeless wisdom to illuminate our paths and strengthen our faith journey. In a world of shifting sands, the reliability of the Bible remains an unwavering beacon of truth and hope for all who seek it.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FELLOWSHIP MEAL April 17th / 6pm

Plan to join us for our monthly fellowship meal. Our April monthly meal will be a Western Hoedown. The church will provide hotdogs, buns and drinks. If you are able, please bring your best western dish or dessert to share. Wear your boots and cowboy hats if desired. Invite your friends to this special evening with our church family. Any questions, please contact Judy Hinds at 843-705-9135.

### MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST Saturday, April 20th / 8am

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

### QUARTERLY BUSINESS MTG WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24TH

Our Quarterly Business Meeting is on April 26th at 6pm. If you have any business to come before the church, please let Pastor Woody or Jim Phillips know before the meeting so you can be added to the agenda.

### GRIEF SHARE

Tuesdays at 9:30am or 6:30pm  
Please contact Pastor Woody for more information at 864-554-7335 or okateepastor1@gmail.com.

### PRAY WITH OUR PASTOR Tuesdays at 11:30am

The Pastor Prayer Gathering meets Tuesdays at 11:30am for a time of getting to know one another, sharing burdens, and praying for our church. Please join us in the Pastor's Office.

## MUSIC MINISTRY Choir Director: Suzanne Tomlinson



*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. ~ Psalm 19:1*

I love springtime! Flowers blooming, trees budding, birds returning to build nests, new life! It brings to mind the hymn "This Is My Father's World." A great reminder of God our Creator and His care and provisions for nature. And how, in an even greater way, He cares for us and is Ruler of it all.

Maltbie Babcock was a gifted athlete, talented musician, and dynamic preacher. While serving as a pastor in northwest New York state, Dr. Babcock would frequently go for a run through the beautiful area to strengthen his body, mind, and spirit. It was during this period that he wrote a poem titled *This Is My Father's World*, reflecting on God's sovereignty over every aspect of the world He had created.

He faced many challenges in his short lifetime of 43 years. A close friend said that he saw everything in the sunniest light.

One line from Babcock's poem expresses the encouragement that God is still on His throne:  
"O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet."

Upon his death, Babcock's wife published a collection of his poems. One of these poems was set to music by his friend Franklin Sheppard, and quickly became a favorite hymn in congregations all over the world.

## BUSINESS MEETING NEWS

At the Special Business Meeting on March 20th, Robert Pressley and Chuck Swanson were confirmed by the congregation to fill the two vacant Deacon positions.

## WOMEN ON MISSION Director: Janet Phillips

WOM has a calendar full of missions projects for 2024. We would like to invite any women in our church who would like to join our missions team to come on board. We meet the second Monday of each month in the Fellowship Hall behind the sanctuary at 1:00 pm.. Our next meeting is April 8th. Please plan to join us.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Chris and Carrie Campbell 8 Ogden Court Beaufort, SC 29907	Jim and Sherry Campbell 81 Francis Marion Cir Beaufort, SC 29907
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## OUR CONDOLENCES

Nell Bailey passed away on 3/1/2024. Nell and her husband Thad joined the church in 2001. Thad predeceased her in August of 2023. A graveside service was held March 3rd at Ridgeland Cemetery.

Wayne Willis passed away on 3/17/2024. Wayne and his wife Dorothy have been members since September of 2021 and had been members prior to that in 2009. A service was held at Port Royal Baptist Church on March 23rd.



### APRIL

6 <sup>th</sup> Stan Smith	6 <sup>th</sup> Jim and Janet Phillips
12 <sup>th</sup> Tom McTeer	6 <sup>th</sup> Johnny & Je Stellan
14 <sup>th</sup> Peggy Enslow	12 <sup>th</sup> Ted & Marilyn Janosko
18 <sup>th</sup> Yvonne Price	14 <sup>th</sup> David & Sara Mercer
21 <sup>st</sup> Bill Blalock	14 <sup>th</sup> Marshall & Gracelyn Stubblefield
23 <sup>rd</sup> Ted Janosko	16 <sup>th</sup> Chris & Carrie Campbell
30 <sup>th</sup> Mary Imhoff	25 <sup>th</sup> Gary & Penny Ogurek
30 <sup>th</sup> Jimmy Padgett	

### APRIL NURSERY

7 <sup>th</sup> Esther Robbins
14 <sup>th</sup> Marsha Morgan
21 <sup>st</sup> Connie Cormier
28 <sup>th</sup> Gail Temple

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Glenda Lyon  
Debbie Walls

### DEACON OF THE WEEK

March 31 - April 6	Bob Cree 757-803-7108
April 7 - April 13	Chuck Swanson 724-882-1129
April 14 - April 20	Jim Phillips 864-219-0411
April 21 - April 27	Stan Wastowicz 703-447-9646
April 28 - May 4	David Bub 860-716-5095