



OKATEE BAPTIST CHURCH, FEBRUARY 2023

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.

Designed by Freepik

A Letter From The Pastor

BY PASTOR WOODY OLIVER

It never ceases to amaze me how God continues to bring the people needed to help Okatee Baptist Church grow in its influence for the sake of Jesus Christ. Our church has been blessed with just the right mix of gifted and talented individuals who love God and desire to serve Him through the local church. With each passing week, as we grow stronger and deeper as the Body Of Christ, it seems there is no limit to what God will do through us.

February is the month that we are going to spend time and energy by shoring up the 'team' part of our organizational structure. To quote Jim Putman, senior pastor of Real Life Ministries in Post Falls, Idaho, "church is a team sport, and God's team can and should win". Winning means discipling the saved and winning the lost. As the Body of Christ, the church – Okatee Baptist Church, we are in a very favorable position to be winners in the Kingdom of God. Being a church in the 21st Century is a challenging and sometimes confusing journey, but 'God is God' and He is strategically putting us together to win.

So, the next step for each of us is to seek God's face and discern where we will serve. Would you consider praying over the list included in this newsletter to where God can effectively use you?

In a few weeks, I will ask you to fill out a preference form.

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

DID YOU KNOW?

BY DR. TIM SEARCY

Small Groups are essential to the church's strategy for discipleship, evangelism, fellowship, and ministry. Statistics continue to show that churches grow through small groups, not large worship services. Group discussion about God's Word helps participants understand, own, and live out the truth. A professor of mine told me many years ago that Sunday School is where the work is done and the worship service is where we celebrate what happened. Here at OBC, our small group ministry is the Sunday School.

Sunday School study time, intentional activities, and caring ministry builds strong relationships. Dr. Thom Rainer, while at LifeWay Christian Resources, discovered that when someone joins the church, 83% of those involved in small groups were connected to the church five years later while only 16% of those not involved in small groups continued to be connected.

Sunday School is very effective in evangelism. Many churches have discovered that 50-100% of lost persons who get active in Sunday School accept Jesus within 12 months. God can use caring outreach, relationships, and discussion about His Word to change lives! We hope to make steps to improve our Sunday School here at OBC. Pray that God will use our program to see many come to Christ.

REPORT FROM THE DEACONS

BY PHIL IMHOFF

At the January 23rd Deacon meeting, the following was discussed:

- Jim Murphy stepped down as Deacon due to other commitments. We are in prayer regarding a new Deacon to fill the opening.
- Deacon responsibilities were discussed and worked on
- David Bub gave a report on Building & Grounds updates
- Pastor Woody gave a report on audio visual updates
- Pastor Woody reviewed January activities

The next Deacon meeting is Thursday, February 23rd, at 2pm.

ONE BODY : MANY PARTS

Audio Visual Team

The Audio Visual Team will serve OBC by assisting Sunday morning worship, choir and praise team practice, and other times that sound and video is required.

Building and Grounds Team

The Building and Grounds Team is responsible for oversight of maintenance and beautification of all buildings and grounds of the church.

Children's Ministry Team

The Children's Ministry Team is responsible for administration of all children's ministries and activities for first through fifth grade children.

Constitution and Bylaws Team

The Constitution and Bylaws Team is responsible for oversight and recommending amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the church.

Decorations Team

The Decorations Team is responsible for the overall furnishings of the interior of the church buildings including the floral arrangements on Sundays and special occasions.

Food Services Team

The Food Services Team is responsible for the church-wide activities which pertain to the needs of kitchen and food services.

Nominating Team

The Nominating Team is responsible for staffing all church-elected positions through volunteers.

Personnel Team

The Personnel Team will assist the pastor in administration of all church employees.

Preschool Ministry Team

The Preschool Ministry Team is responsible for administration of all preschool ministries and activities from birth through kindergarten preschoolers.

Senior Adult Ministry Team

The Senior Adult Ministry Team is responsible for administration of all senior adult ministries and activities.

Stewardship Team

The Stewardship Team is responsible for budget development, and budget administration along with stewardship development.

Youth Ministry Team

The Youth Ministry Team is responsible for administration of all youth ministries and activities for all youth in the sixth through twelfth grades.

FEBRUARY 2023

Feb 1	6pm Prayer Service / Bible Study 7pm Choir
Feb 5	9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 5pm Evening Service
Feb 7	11:30 Pastor Prayer Gathering
Feb 8	6pm Prayer Service / Bible Study 7pm Choir
Feb 11	10am-12pm SRBA WMU/ WOM Cookie & Candy Love Walk in Fellowship Hall
Feb 12	9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 5pm Evening Service
Feb 13	1pm WOM Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Feb 14	10am Stewardship Mtg 11:30 Pastor Prayer Gathering
	
Feb 15	6pm Covered Dish Fellowship Meal 7pm Choir
Feb 16	2pm Personnel Committee Mtg
Feb 17	2-4pm Game Day in Education Bldg
Feb 19	9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 5pm Evening Service
Feb 21	11:30 Pastor Prayer Gathering
Feb 22	6pm Prayer Service / Bible Study 7pm Choir
Feb 23	"Impact" Statewide gathering at the Mill 2pm Deacons Meeting
Feb 26	9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 5pm Evening Service
Feb 28	11:30 Pastor Prayer Gathering



WOMEN ON MISSION (WOMEN, AGES 18+)

By JANET PHILLIPS

Next Meeting: Monday, February 12th, at 1pm in Fellowship Hall.

If you are a lady attending our church, we welcome you to join us for our monthly meetings on the second Monday of every month at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall behind the sanctuary. All women are welcome. Any questions, please contact Janet Phillips, 864-449-9609.

SRBA WMU/WOM Coming Events:

In February our Women on Mission group will participate in a cookie walk project to replenish the food banks in our churches who have food banks. The details of this cookie walk are to bring can goods and non-perishable foods and receive cookies made by our association's WOM/WMU ladies in return. There will be tables set up for those who bring items for the food banks, to browse and choose a number of cookies, depending on how many items you bring to donate. The more items you bring, the more cookies you get!! This event will be held at our church on Saturday, February 11th, from 9am to noon. Please put this on your calendar! We look forward to seeing you there.

Our WOM group has been discussing some new places and ways we can connect with and serve going forward this year. Look for details of our mission work coming in future newsletters.

COVERED DISH MEAL

Our next Covered Dish Meal is on Wednesday, February 15th at 6:00pm. The church will provide drinks. Please bring food to share with others in attendance and invite your friends to this special evening with our church family. Wear your red for Valentine's Day! Any questions, please contact Phyllis Howard at 843-505-2871.



4th John Stellan
6th Richard Patrick
10th Jim Monck
11th David Mercer
12th Rick Oberlin
14th Betty Randolph
14th Patricia Tupper
21st Parker Sutler
24th Marshall Stubblefield



15th Phil & Mary Imhoff
17th Richard & Gloria Patrick
27th Chuck & A.J. Swanson

NOTES FROM SUZANNE



Since February is usually a month we think about love, I wanted to highlight a hymn that most people learn at a very early age – “Jesus Loves Me.” The lyrics were written first by Anna Warner to be used in the context of a book written by her sister, Susan Warner, in 1860.

The words were to be used to comfort a child. In 1862, William Bradbury added the chorus and the music to the lyrics.

The sisters lost their mother when they were young and their father was a prominent New York lawyer and investor and lost most of his wealth in a financial crisis in the United States. They left New York and moved to a farmhouse in West Point near the U.S. Military Academy. In later years, the sisters held regular Bible studies for the cadets. “Jesus Loves Me” became a very popular song and the cadets told them that it brought great comfort to them and they would often sing it on the battlefields during the American Civil War.

May we remember and sing it as well, to be reminded of the unconditional love of Jesus for all!

A CURE FOR THE WINTER DOLDRUMS

The Senior Adult Team is planning a Game Afternoon in the Church Educational building on Friday, February 17th, from 2:00 – 4:00pm. Come and enjoy your favorite games: UNO, LRC, Mexican Train, Corn Hole, and we'll even have puzzles if games are not your “thing”. Never played these game before? We'll teach you. Fellowship, Refreshments, and Gamemanship, What could be better! See you there!

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Welcome to our newest member at Okatee Baptist Church:
Cody Clevinger, 54 Okatie Park Circle W.,
Ridgeland, SC 29936

DEACON OF THE WEEK

February 5 - 11
Phil Imhoff, 419-295-7031

February 12 - 18
Jim Reeves, 843-290-0746

February 19 - 25
Phil Imhoff, 419-295-7031

February 26 - March 4
Jim Phillips, 864-219-0411

NURSERY

5th Glenda Lyon

12th Dena Oliver

19th Mary Durham

26th Laura Bub

TUESDAY'S PASTOR PRAYER GATHERING

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



OKATEE BAPTIST CHURCH EMPLOYEES

Pastor: Woody Oliver	864-554-7335
Associate Pastor: Dr. Tim Searcy	985-212-2492
Worship Dir: Suzanne Tomlinson	843-290-5003
Financial Secretary: Judy Altman	843-987-0885
Admin. Assistant: Pam Seibert	843-987-0885
Custodian: Dena Oliver	864-554-7336

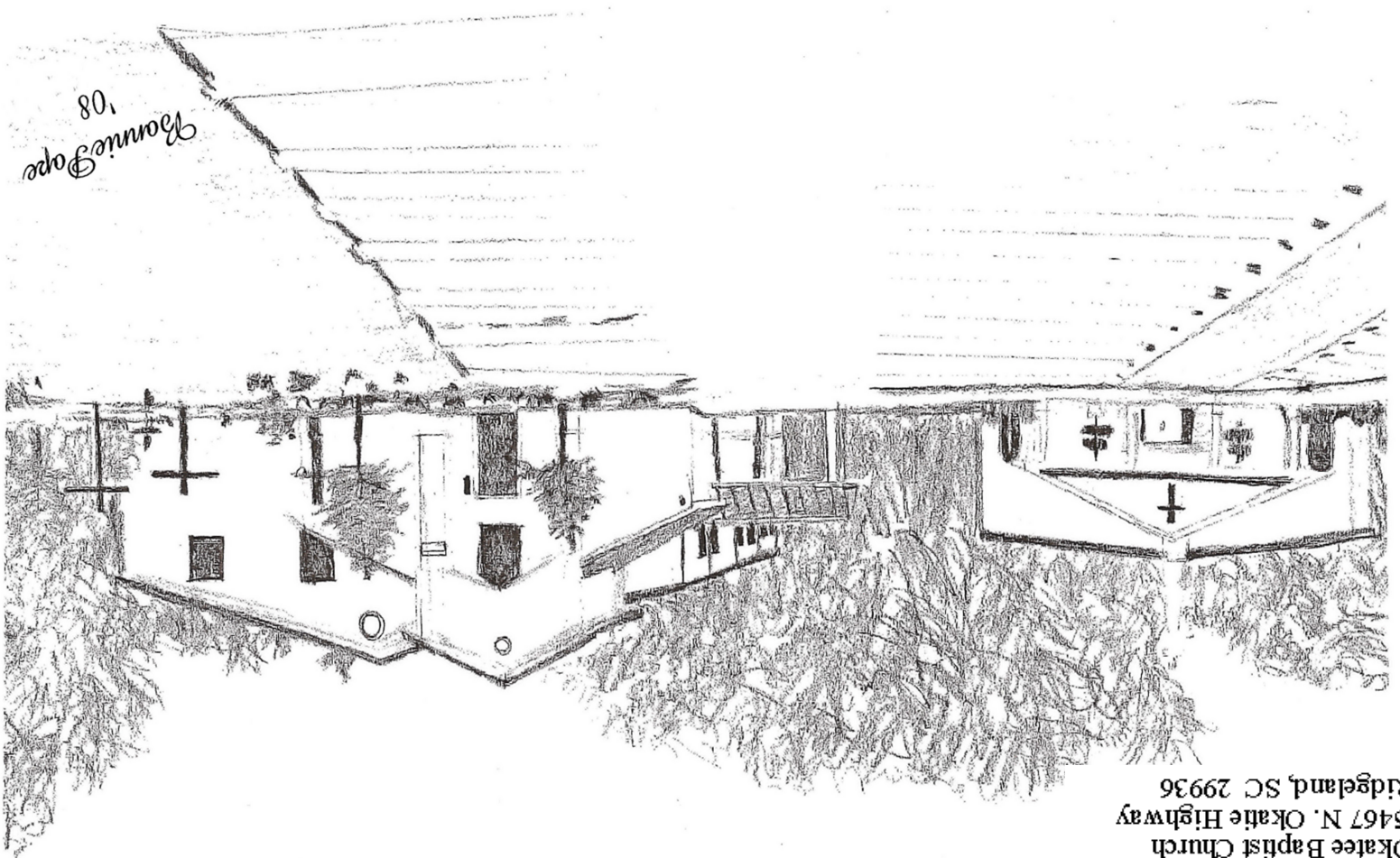
Experience the Holy Land



11-Day Biblical Tour of Israel
November 5-15, 2023
\$4,680 from Charleston, SC

Hosted by Dr. Tim Searcy and
Pastor Woody Oliver

For Further Information,
Contact Dr. Tim Searcy,
985-212-2492 or tlsearcy@msn.com



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