



OKATEE BAPTIST CHURCH

MAY 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.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

³ *Oh, what a wonderful God we have! How great are his wisdom and knowledge and riches! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his methods!* ³⁴ *For who among us can know the mind of the Lord?* Romans 11:33-34a (NLT).

There is no doubt, God is wonderful! Actually, he is beyond wonderful! In fact, He is beyond any word we can use to describe Him. And as I look back over my life, I am living proof that it is impossible to fully understand His decisions and methods. What I mean is that my story, my path, my journey is beyond my imagination. Beyond my imagination because of where I started, what I have gone through, and where I am now. Knowing what I know now, I still don't think I would have written my life journey the same way God has crafted it, but I need to be careful because that could sound like I either disagree with God or am willing to debate Him. I hope I have learned from the Book of Job and Jonah that is not something I want to do or should ever do.

I guess what I am saying is that I don't understand God's decisions and methods as it applies to my life. It is not that I object, but like most people, I find a great deal of comfort in knowing what's next. Maybe comfort isn't an accurate word, because if I disagreed or didn't look forward to the 'next', then knowing wouldn't necessarily bring comfort.

With that said, I am reminded what James wrote; ⁴² *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.* (James 1:2-6 NIV)

My life has been full of trials which has been a testing of my faith, and many times I have asked God for wisdom and He has always provided the answers that I needed - even though I didn't always understand and agree. The Holy Spirit through James 1:5-6 convicts me because there have been times that I have doubted the answers God provided. It is not that I have doubted God, but that I have doubted that I heard God correctly as if I had a hearing problem. I have struggled and said; "is that really what God has said?" I have lived with that tension from time to time, but I have always moved forward in faith and learned later the reason for His decision.

Faith is a beautiful way to live in the providence of God, but it can also be a very difficult path to walk. God has taught me through Joshua 3 that is necessary to take a step of faith to see God show up and show up big. Joshua told the priest who were to carry the ark of the covenant across the Jordan River that when they reached the river, they were to step into the river even though the river was at flood stage. The priests did as they were instructed, and sure enough, when they stepped into the river the waters ceased flowing. Stepping out in faith is the Christian life, because it is one of the significant ways God's Glory is revealed.

So, as we move ahead as a church and individually, to God be the Glory!!

Pastor Woody

On Time God
Dottie Peoples

*He's an on time God, Yes he is
Oh On time God, Yes he is*

*Job said, He may not come
when you want him
But He'll be there right on time
I'll tell ya he's an
On time God, yes he is*

*He's an on time God, Yes he is
Oh On time God, Yes he is*

*You can ask
the children of Israel,
trapped at the red sea,
by that mean old Pharaoh,
and his army. They had water
all around them, and Pharaoh
on their track. From out of
nowhere, God stepped in and
cut a highway, just like that,
now let me tell you he's an...*

*He's an on time God, Yes he is
Oh On time God, Yes he is*

*You can ask the five thousand,
hungry souls he fed, on the
banks of the river, with 2 fish
and 5 loaves of bread, what a
miracle, he performed for the
multitude,
Oh what he did, way back
then he'll do today for me and
you*

*He's an on time God, Yes he is
Oh On time God, Yes he is*

STAFF

Woody Oliver, Pastor

Dr. Tim Searcy, Assoc. Pastor

Suzanne Tomlinson, Choir Dir.

Pam Seibert, Admin. Assist.

Dena Oliver, Facilities

843-987-0885



Okatee Baptist Church



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Okateebaptist.com

DR. TIM SEARCY (Dr. T)

A Mother's Love in Marble and Life

Tucked within the majestic halls of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City is one of the world's most moving works of art—Michelangelo's *Pietà*. Carved when the artist was just 24 years old, the statue portrays Mary cradling the lifeless body of Jesus after His crucifixion. The marble is cold and still, yet somehow alive with emotion. Her face is not one of despair, but of deep, sorrowful love. It's the image of a mother who has given everything.



As we celebrate Mother's Day, *Pietà* invites us to reflect on the sacred strength and selfless love of mothers. Mary's silent witness to her Son's suffering reminds us of countless mothers who quietly endure sleepless nights, whispered prayers, and aching sacrifices for the well-being of their children.

Michelangelo's masterpiece speaks not only of sorrow but also of dignity and compassion. It shows a mother who remained faithful to God even in the darkest hour. How many mothers today carry unseen burdens—yet press on, shaped by a love that refuses to give up?

This Mother's Day, we honor both the quiet beauty and bold strength of mothers. Whether biological, adoptive, spiritual, or mother-figures, their nurturing hearts reflect something divine. Mary's embrace of Jesus is echoed in the hugs, the meals, the prayers, and the encouragement of everyday moms.

As the *Pietà* draws millions of pilgrims into a moment of holy reflection, may we also pause to thank God for the gift of mothers—those who, like Mary, walk in grace, carry our grief, and help us see the face of Christ in their love.

"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her." — Proverbs 31:28

Happy Mother's Day.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH TEAM

Chris Campbell

The Associate Pastor Search Team (APST) is happy to announce that the advertisement for the position of Associate Pastor of Family Ministries has been posted on both the Southern Baptist Convention and South Carolina Baptist Association's job board. We will run the ad for the next couple months. After that, if God allows, we will begin the evaluation phase of the candidates. Please continue to keep the search team and our future associate pastor in your prayers. Please let me know if there are any questions or concerns! Thanks!

ACTS 2 LUNCHEON

Jim Phillips

Too often a person finds herself or himself alone & lonely after the death of his or her spouse. So many things about their life are changing as they find themselves moving into the second phase of life. Acts 2 Luncheon is sponsored by the Deacons and their wives for anyone who is going through the rest of their lives alone. The purpose is to encourage and connect those without a spouse and to glorify God by living out the path the disciples established when they chose 7 Deacons to meet the needs of the widows. Come join us on Thursday, May 22 at 11:00 to a delicious lunch and time of fellowship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 1st

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, May 17th / 8am

Invite a friend and come enjoy a great breakfast in the Education Building for a time of fellowship, challenge and devotion.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, May 21st / 6pm

Bring a friend and come for fellowship and fun at our Fellowship Meal. The church will provide fried chicken and drinks. In celebration of Mother's Day, bring your mother's favorite entrée, side or dessert.

ACTS 2 LUNCHEON FOR WIDOWS / WIDOWERS

Thursday, May 22th

11:00 Seminar Room

BLOOD CONNECTION AT OBC

TUESDAY, MAY 27th / 9:30AM-1PM

Help save lives! Sign up to donate by calling the church (843-987-0885) or on the Blood Connection website at:
<https://donate.thebloodconnection.org/donor/schedules/zip>

TUESDAY PRAYER GATHERING

11:30am

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

BUILDING AND GROUNDS TEAM

Team Leaders: Chris Campbell & Michael Robbins

The Building and Grounds Team is excited to announce that we have recommended, and the Deacons approved, Delta Roofing Company as our general contractor for the repair of the sanctuary. Delta Roofing has years of experience in both residential and commercial roof repair and are qualified to complete this project. They will use and oversee subcontractors to handle all non roof repairs and renovations.

Delta Roofing Company met with Pastor Woody, Jim Phillips, and our church Trustees, Bill Copeland, David Mercer, and Parker Sutler on Tuesday, April 29 to sign the contract. The next step will be for sub contractors to come in and assess the work they will be responsible for and provide bids to Delta Roofing. That should take about 2 weeks. From there, Delta Roofing will work with our insurance company, Brotherhood Mutual, to finalize the specific costs for the project. That process will take about 2 weeks. Then the work can begin which is estimated to take around 6 months.

Our insurance company has agreed to pay for all but \$7,500 of the project. One of our generous members has covered the \$7,500 deductible. Delta Roofing has agreed to put our building back the way it was if not better and bring it up to current codes. Please make it a priority in your prayer time for the project as well as the safety of all the workers involved.

GO THE DISTANCE: VBS SPORTS CAMP 2025 THEME

Go The Distance examines the concept of perseverance and how we as believers can continue to persevere in our journey with God. It uses the missionary journeys of Paul (I have finished the race...) as the scriptural back drop.

At VBS sports camp, UW breaks down the concept with 5 steps to help us persevere. On Day 1 of camp, we teach that "in order to Go the Distance you must be willing to change". Maybe God wants you to change your environment, or change your goals, or change your activities. Every lesson has a modern day sports story that illustrates the first Key Point of the lesson. This year, it is a story about the LA Dodgers and winning the World Series in 2024. The first key point in the lesson is that *change can happen in an instant*. The Bible story is the conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus and the second Key Point (always a "God point") is that *God can change us on the inside*.

We hope that you will make it a point to invite children ages 4-12 to our June 9-13 sports camp at OBC and that you also will consider volunteering and having an influence on the lives of the children who attend!

2025 HANSHEW OFFERING

OBC has an offering of \$1,500 built into the budget for the Clarence & Christine Hanshew Offering which supports the Savannah River Baptist Association Missions. A prayer guide will be available at the church. If you would like to give an additional Hanshew offering, an envelope will be available in May for donations.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 nd	Ellyse Pascarella	15 th	Maggie McLendon
3 rd	Marsha Evans	17 th	Kara Malphrus
5 th	Bob Cree	17 th	Steve Crabtree
7 th	Don Cormier	23 rd	Sue Leber
7 th	June Cree	28 th	Trent Randolph
8 th	Onnie Morgan	28 th	William VanBuren
8 th	Tony Roberts	31 st	Kyley Patton
8 th	Sue Copeland		
9 th	Emmerson Weiler		
9 th	Stan Wastowicz		
10 th	Jim Phillips	4 th	Jim & Sue Leber
10 th	Debbie Koerner	12 th	Bill & Sandy Jackson
10 th	Nathan Searcy	22 nd	Rick & Kathy Oberlin
11 th	Kathy Oberlin	25 th	Trent & Constance Randolph

MAY NURSERY

4 th	Marsha Morgan
11 th	Esther Robbins
18 th	Gail Temple
25 th	Connie Cormier

DEACON OF THE WEEK

May 4 - 10 / Jim Campbell	970-531-3378
May 11 - 17 / Don Cormier	843-812-7957
May 18 - 24 / Ted Janosko	580-917-6000
May 25 - 31 / Michael Robbins	843-338-2814

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Glenda Lyon
Debbie Walls



VBS SPORTS CAMP 2025
SAVE THE DATE: June 9-13, 5-8pm

The purpose of VBS Sport Camp is to minister children in a fun gospel and sport centered environment, create outreach to the surrounding communities, and to create evangelism opportunities. This purpose is supported by a creative theme of Bible study, sports, worship, and even time for some tasty snacks.

VBS Sports Camp offers a chance to pull out all the stops and create an unforgettable experience. Research shows connections made during VBS result in salvations, discovery of church prospects and potential workers for other ongoing children's programs. It is a special event that creates memories that help lock Bible truths in a child's heart and mind for a lifetime. When we connect with kids through this ministry, the biblical truths that permeate all aspects of VBS Sports Camp also connect with their hearts and minds. And it is an intentional evangelistic opportunity. The biblical content built into the curriculum lays foundational truths that help kids understand who Jesus is and why they need a personal Savior. The relationships you develop with kids and their families can provide many opportunities to not only show the love of Jesus, but to share the truth of the gospel.

VBS / Sports Camp Volunteers Needed: Assistant Sports Coaches, Facilities Coordinator, First Aid Coordinator, Prayer Coordinator, Junior Coach, Registration Coordinator, Registration Team Member, Food Coordinator, Food Team Member, Sports Flash Coordinator, Gopher, and Armadillo Catcher.

Sign-up starts Sunday, May 4th for both volunteers and children ages 4-12 who want to attend the camp.

