



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.

DR. TIM SEARCY (Dr. T)

Interim Pastor

HONORING MOTHERS ON MOTHER'S DAY

May brings with it one of the most meaningful occasions on our calendar as we pause to celebrate Mother's Day. It is a time when we honor mothers, grandmothers, and all women who have helped nurture, guide, and shape lives through love and sacrifice. The Bible consistently teaches us to give honor where honor is due, and Mother's Day gives us a wonderful opportunity to do just that.

From the very beginning, God established the home as a place where faith, wisdom, and love would be passed from one generation to another. Many of us can trace our earliest lessons about kindness, prayer, honesty, and perseverance to the influence of a godly mother or grandmother. Long before we understood sermons or Bible studies, we often learned truth through the steady example of a mother's life.

The Scriptures give us many examples of faithful women whose influence shaped history. Hannah prayed earnestly for a son and then dedicated him to the Lord. Jochebed courageously protected her child during dangerous times. Mary humbly accepted God's calling and faithfully walked a difficult path. These women remind us that motherhood is not merely a role—it is a calling of deep importance and eternal impact.

We also recognize that motherhood often involves unseen labor. There are prayers whispered late at night, tears shed in concern, sacrifices quietly made, and burdens carried without recognition. Much of what mothers do is never applauded publicly, yet heaven takes notice. God sees every act of love, every weary moment, and every faithful effort.

For some, Mother's Day is joyful and celebratory. For others, it may bring grief, longing, or difficult memories. Some miss mothers who have gone on to be with the Lord. Some desire children but have not had them. Others carry pain from broken relationships. As the church family, we want to be sensitive and compassionate. This day is not only about celebration—it is also about gratitude, comfort, and encouragement.

We should also remember that many women serve in motherly ways beyond biological motherhood. Spiritual mothers, teachers, mentors, caregivers, and faithful church ladies have invested deeply in younger generations. Their wisdom and kindness have blessed countless lives. Thank God for every woman who has helped nurture faith and character in others.

This month, let us be intentional in showing appreciation. A phone call, a handwritten note, a visit, flowers, or simply heartfelt words can mean more than we realize. Tell the mothers in your life that their labor has mattered. Thank them for the prayers, the patience, and the love they have given.

Most of all, let us thank the Lord for the gift of mothers. They are one of God's sweetest expressions of care and provision in our lives. "Her children rise up and bless her" is a fitting reminder from Scripture. May we do the same—not only on Mother's Day, but throughout the year.

In Christ,

Dr. Searcy



LET THE CELEBRATION BEGIN ON MAY 24, 2026

In January 2025, a portion of the ceiling collapsed, making our sanctuary unusable. Over the past 15 months we have been meeting in our educational building. I want to commend you, the members of our congregation, for your patience and understanding as our sanctuary was being repaired. During this time, you have adapted and adjusted to the inconveniences caused by this event. We now see the light at the end of this tunnel. On May 24, 2026, we will return to worship in the newly repaired sanctuary. We invite you to be present to celebrate this time in the life of Okatee Baptist church. All are invited. Thanks to Chris Campbell and Michael Robbins, as chairpersons, of the Building and Grounds team and all their team members for the difficult task of making our return possible. This has been a roller coaster of ups and downs for them. They have experienced disappointment and setbacks but are now ready to push ahead to a new day in a new building.

Not only will we celebrate being in the newly repaired building, but we will also celebrate the 30th anniversary of the existence of Okatee Baptist Church. Okatee Baptist Church started as a Mission of Maye River Baptist Church in the spring of 1990. The church met for several months at the Beaufort Jasper Career Center. The Mission then moved to the Camp Saint Mary's Low Country Human Development Center on June 2, 1991. On May 15, 1994, Maye River Baptist Church approved for the Okatee Mission to purchase 10.47 acres on highway 170. There were 25 members at this time. On September 12, 1994, the closing was held on the purchase of the property. The Okatee mission purchased 5.26 acres for \$50,000.00 with John Trask donating an additional 5.21 acres. The mortgage was paid in full on April 16, 1996. On May 5, 1996, the Okatee Mission was constituted as Okatee Baptist Church. The service of constitution was held at Maye River Baptist Church. Okatee Baptist Church began with 38 charter members. A groundbreaking service was held with dinner on the grounds on the new property on October 20, 1997. In September 1997, the metal building was ordered and construction began. On March 22, 1998, the first worship service was held in the new building, On November 16, 2003, a groundbreaking service was held for the construction of a new educational building. The slab was poured on April 29, 2004. The church had decided to pay as they went along and not go into debt. However, on April 2, 2006, the church began a 3-year building fund program. The church received pledges of \$318,000.00 over a three-year program. On November 12, 2006, the church moved into the new educational building. In September 2012 the mortgage was completely satisfied because of the generous giving of the church family.

Not only will we celebrate the return to our sanctuary, and the anniversary of Okatee Baptist Church, but we will also have dinner on the grounds provided by our Food Service Team.

Please make plans to be present and celebrate the day with us.

SERVICE DAY

Saturday, May 9th / 9am

Come help clean and organize Fellowship Hall in preparation for our move into the sanctuary.

WOM MEETING

Monday, May 11th at 1pm
Seminar Room

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

Saturday, May 16th / 8am

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

SAVANNAH RIVER BOAT CRUISE

Monday, May 18th / 4:45pm

Contact Ted or Marilyn Janosko for more information.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

SUNDAY, MAY 24

A catered meal will follow the 11am worship service in celebration of OBC's 30th year anniversary.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATES

JULY 20 - 24TH / 6-8PM

THEME: "COME ONE COME ALL"

CHURCH DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

Available in church foyer or by calling the church office at 843-987-0885. You can also contact your Deacon if you would like them to bring you a copy.



The WOM Luncheon was great with 29 attending. The food was delicious. We thank all our good cooks who prepared the food, especially Phyllis Howard, (our onsite chef), who did a lot of shopping for and cooking for the luncheon.

Marilyn did a devotion based on the book from our last women's Bible study "Unshakeable HOPE" and we had music to refer to each section of the devotion. Suzanne sang a solo for us to end our worship, The song was a reference to a devotion I had the morning of the luncheon, "When He was on the Cross, I was on His mind". I asked everyone to think about that statement throughout the rest of their day. You will see photos from the luncheon below.

We will be busy discussing two mission activities in our May meeting on May 11th.

- A big thank you to Brenda Searcy, who found some stuffed animals for the pregnancy center this month. Carrie delivered them to the center.
- We did visit Canterfield this month for Easter. However, I do not have photos from this visit. Videos of that visit will be played Sunday May 3rd during the Mission Moment portion of the worship service.

Please join us for the next meeting on May 11th at 1:00pm in the Conference Room of the Education Building.

WOM'S WOMENS LUNCHEON - APRIL 2026



- 2nd Ellyse Pascarella
- 5th Bob Cree
- 7th June Cree
- 7th Mary Haynes
- 7th Don Cormier
- 8th Sue Copeland
- 8th Onnie Morgan
- 9th Stan Wastowicz
- 9th Emerson Weller
- 10th Debbie Koerner
- 10th Nathan Searcy
- 10th Jim Phillips
- 11th Kathy Oberlin
- 17th Kara Malphrus
- 28th Trent Randolph
- 28th William VanBuren
- 31st Kyley Patton

MAY ANNIVERSARY

- 5/12 Bill & Sandy Jackson
- 5/22 Rick & Kathy Oberlin
- 5/25 Trent & Constance Randolph

MAY NURSERY

- 3rd Connie Cormier
- 10th Kara Malphrus
- 17th Esther R. & Earline W.
- 24th Gail Temple
- 31st Gail Temple

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Debbie Walls & Glenda Lyon

DEACON OF THE WEEK

- May 3 to 9 / Michael Robbins
843-338-2814
- May 10 to 16 / Chris Campbell
843-441-4276
- May 17 to 23 / Robert Pressley
864-614-3898
- May 24 to 30 / Ted Janosko
580-917-6000
- May 31 to June 5 / Ron West
404-218-2633

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Leader: Chris Campbell

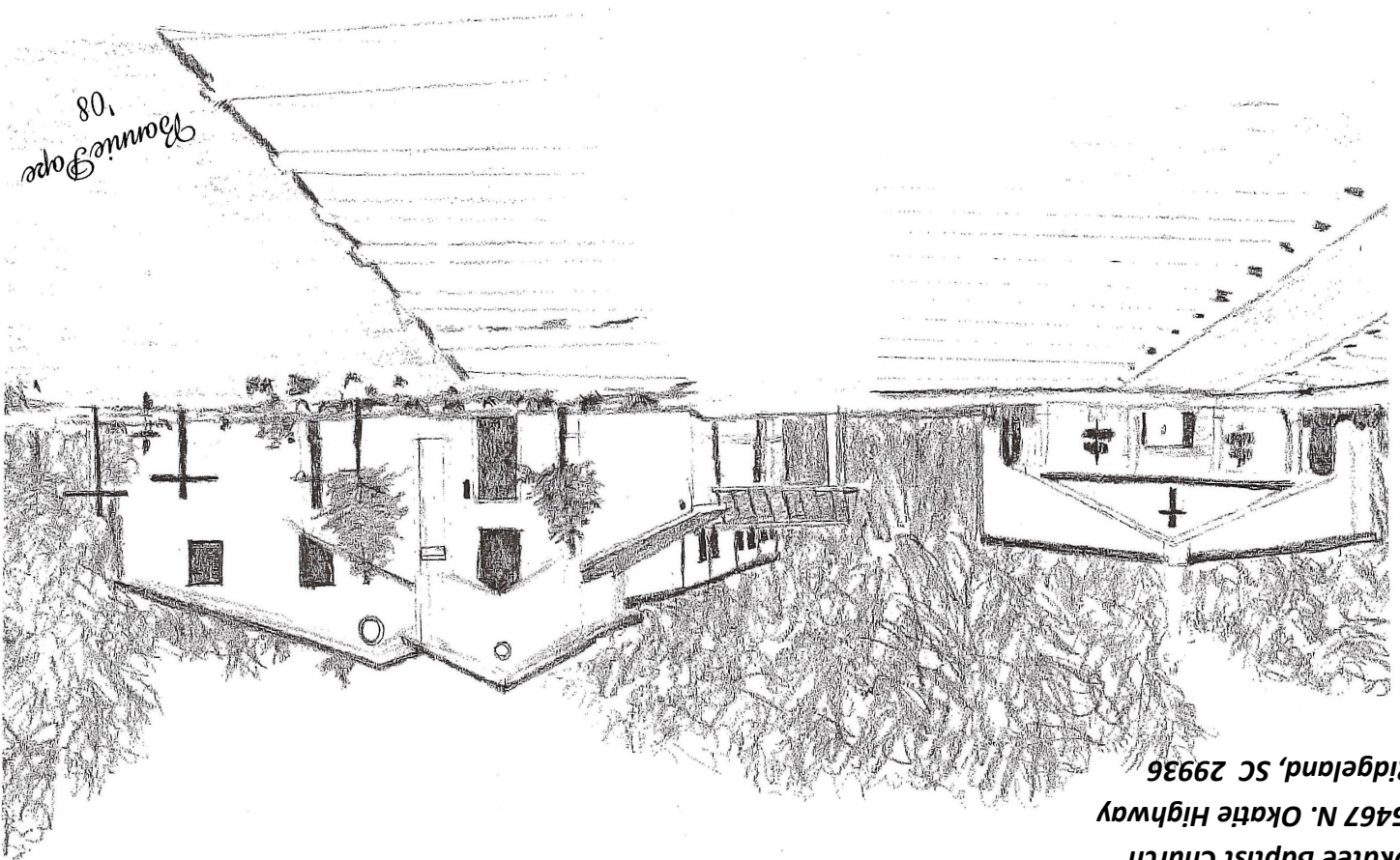
The Pastor Search Team is faithfully and diligently continuing the search for the man that God has chosen to lead our flock. We are prayerfully filtering through the resumes and are starting to narrow our search once again. Please continue to keep the church, the search team, and our future pastor in your prayers.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Team Leaders: Ted & Marilyn Janosko

May 18th - Savannah Riverboat Cruise Dinner and Gospel Singing. We will meet at church at 4:45pm to form carpools and leave the church at 5pm. Boarding the riverboat is at 6pm and the cruise is from 7-9pm. Elevators are available. The cost is \$77.09 per person. Must call 912-232-6404 for reservations. The order number is 6768370. Please call Ted or Marilyn Janosko at 580-917-6000 with any questions.

Save the Date for the Senior Celebration - July 30, 2026 at 10am at Port Royal Baptist Church. The theme for the celebration is "Faith and Friends".



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