



OKATEE BAPTIST CHURCH

AUGUST 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.

"RENEWED FOR THE HARVEST"

August often feels like a season of transition. Summer is winding down, vacations are wrapping up, and soon children will be heading back to school. It's a natural moment to pause, reflect, and prepare our hearts for what lies ahead.

Jesus once told His disciples, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field"* (Matthew 9:37–38). Just as farmers begin to prepare for the fall harvest, we too can use this time to renew our commitment to the mission God has given us — loving Him, loving one another, and reaching our community with the Gospel.

How can we prepare?

- **Pray with Purpose:** Make time each day to pray for our church, our ministries, and for those who need Christ.
- **Serve with Joy:** Whether it's teaching a class, greeting visitors, or lending a helping hand, every act of service builds God's Kingdom.
- **Invite with Boldness:** Many people are looking for a fresh start this fall — a simple invitation to church could change a life forever.

As August unfolds, let's step forward with renewed energy and faith, ready to join in the work God has already prepared for us. Together, let's look ahead to a fruitful harvest season.

In Christ
Dr. T

Then he said to
his disciples,
"The Harvest
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but the laborers
are few.
Therefore pray
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MATTHEW 9:37-38

STAFF

Dr. Tim Searcy, Interim Pastor
Suzanne Tomlinson, Choir Dir.
Nell Simmons, Assistant Treasurer

Pam Seibert, Admin. Assist.
Rachel Cormier, Custodian

843-987-0885



Okatee Baptist Church



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Okateebaptist.com

FELLOWSHIP OF DEACONS

Leader: Jim Phillips

GREETINGS BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

"God-given talents" refer to unique skills, abilities, and aptitudes that individuals are believed to possess because of divine endowment. These talents are often seen as a gift from God, meant to be used for His glory and for the benefit of others. The concept suggests that these talents are inherent and not solely the result of learning or practicing. Each person is believed to have a unique set of talents, making them distinct and valuable. These talents are not meant to be hidden or wasted; they are intended to be used for good, often in service to God and others. Many Christians believe that spiritual gifts, as described in the Bible, are a subset of God-given talents, bestowed by the Holy Spirit. These gifts are intended for building up the church and serving others. As the Bible reminds us in 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV), "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."

All of our talents—not just some of them—come from God. James 1:17 (NKJV) says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. God is intentional with the talents He gives us. That's what Psalm 139:14 (NKJV) tells us: "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. No one's talents are better or more important than anyone else's. As 1 Corinthians 12:18–19 (NKJV) teaches us: "God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? All the Bible verses about talent point to one conclusion: The world needs you and Okatee Baptist Church needs you and what you have to offer.

It's time to put your God-given talents to use.

Soon the nominating team at Okatee Baptist Church will begin their work of locating church members to fill positions on teams and committees as leaders. We will also be looking for members to serve on these teams as well. Please take advantage of this opportunity to serve God and please God by serving and using your talents He has given to you.

Also, on July 30 in our quarterly business meeting the nominating team nominated the following to serve as members of The Pastor Search Team: Chris Campbell, Phyllis Howard, Robert Pressley, Gail Temple, and Suzanne Tomlinson. These five will be joined by The Chairman of the Personnel Team and The Chairman Of the Deacons. The Deacons also nominated David Atterbury, Jim Campbell, and Ron West to serve as Deacons for the three-year term beginning in October 2025. Quarterly business meetings provide great opportunities for you to learn of the activities of the church. I encourage you to attend so you will be fully informed.

In today's church, the Deacons are servants and are responsible for ministering to the members of the congregation. We pray for you, and we are available to assist you with your needs. Please contact your Deacon when you have a request and we will do all we can to assist you.

Until next month, may God bless you with good health and safe travel.

See you at our next worship experience,

Jim Phillips



Hello everyone,

The WOM group will be very busy the next three months.

We will be visiting Canterfield Assisted Living on August 11. We will be spending some time in the memory care unit to sing familiar songs and play some games with the residents. This visit to Canterfield will be our meeting for August. Meet at the church at 1pm

School is starting soon and we will be reaching out to Okatie and Pritchardville Elementary Schools to help with supplies.

When we meet on September 8th, we will confirm plans for our Women's luncheon in October for all ladies in our church and anyone who attends with them. More coming on this later. We will also begin the campaign for the prisoner packets in September.

If you are not a participant in WOM and you would like to join us, we meet the second Monday of each month at 1:00 in the conference room in the Education building. Please pray for us as we spread the love of Jesus in our community and beyond.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Leader: Gail Lenga

A "Back to School" picnic and games will take place at the church August 23rd at 10am. More information coming on this after the Children's Team meets Thursday, August 7th at 1pm.

Children's Ministry is in need of someone to substitute during our Children's Church time. No preparation is needed, just help when needed if someone is unable to be there. Please contact Gail Lenga if you are able to serve in this way (301-331-5540).

ANNUAL SENIOR CELEBRATION

Thursday, Aug. 7th / 10am
Port Royal Baptist Church

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY TRIP

Parris Island
Thursday, Aug. 14th / 8:45am

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

Saturday, August 16th / 8am
All men and boys are invited for food, fellowship, and a challenge for men.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, August 20th / 6pm
We are having an Italian Potluck Meal. Please bring your favorite Italian entrée, side dish or dessert. The church will provide drinks. Any questions, please contact Judy Hinds.

TUESDAY PRAYER GATHERING

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.

AUGUST BIRTHDAY

2nd Philip Imhoff
8th Diane Swanson
9th Tiffany Pascarella
14th Phyllis Howard
14th Shelby Land
17th Allen Neal, Jr.
19th Jackie Tiffany
24th Kathy Jones
25th David Bub
31st Suzanne Steel

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

2nd Jeff & Jennifer Herrin
8th Ron & Sue West
14th Marshall & Jan Bishop
23rd John & Kyle Patton
26th Roger & Earline Woods



AUGUST NURSERY

3rd Connie C. & Louise P.
10th Marsha M. & Kara M.
17th Esther R. & Earline W.
24th Gail T. & Kay K.
31st Gail T. & Marsha M.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Gail Lenga
Constance Randolph

DEACON OF THE WEEK

Aug 3 - 9th / Michael Robbins
843-338-2814

Aug 10 - 16th / Roger Woods
912-441-5335

Aug 17 - 23rd / Jim Phillips
864-219-0411

Aug 24 - 30th / Chris Campbell
843-441-4276

Aug 31 - Sept 7th / Robert Pressley
864-614-3898

INTERESTED IN A LADIES BIBLE STUDY?

A Ladies Bible Study is being planned for the church to begin in September. It will be on Thursdays at 10:30 and last approximately an hour. Please let Marilyn Janosko know if you are interested in joining the group (580-917-8088) so she can order enough study material.

DEACONS

Please pray for our Deacons as they minister to their Deacon families and visit them in their homes and in the hospital. Pray for God to lead them in His will, and for God to protect them and their families.

If you are a member and don't know who your deacon is, please contact the church office at 843-987-0885 or Jim Phillips, 864-219-0411.

Jim Phillips, Leader
Chris Campbell
Don Cormier
Jim Campbell
Michael Robbins

Phil Imhoff
Robert Pressley
Roger Woods
Stan Wastowicz
Ted Janosko

1 Timothy 2:1-4 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

