



# 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**

## **DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM GOD**

June brings with it the promise of summer. School schedules change, vacations are planned, family reunions are scheduled, and many of us enjoy a slower pace of life. Summer can be a wonderful season of rest, refreshment, and making memories with those we love. Yet as our schedules change, there is one thing we must be careful not to leave behind: our walk with God.

**While there is nothing wrong with taking a vacation, we should never take a vacation from God.**

Unfortunately, summer can sometimes become a season of spiritual drift. Church attendance becomes occasional, Bible reading becomes irregular, and prayer quietly slips into the background. What begins as “just missing a week or two” can slowly turn into spiritual complacency. Before long, we realize that while our bodies have rested, our souls have grown weary.

**The truth is, God never takes a vacation from us.**

Psalm 121:3–4 reminds us, “He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.” Even when we travel, God travels with us. Whether we are at the beach, in the mountains, visiting family, or simply enjoying longer summer evenings at home, His presence goes with us. His faithfulness never changes with the seasons.

**Summer can actually become one of the best times for spiritual growth if we approach it intentionally.**

If you are traveling, take your Bible with you. Spend a few moments each morning reading God’s Word before beginning your day. Many people discover that vacation provides quiet moments they rarely find during busier seasons. Use that time to pray, reflect, and listen to the Lord.

If you are away on a Sunday, consider attending a local church where you are visiting. It can be encouraging to worship with fellow believers in another community and be reminded that the family of God stretches far beyond our local congregation. And of course, if you are in town, continue faithfully gathering with your church family. Hebrews 10:25 reminds us not to neglect meeting together because we need one another’s encouragement.

Summer is also a wonderful opportunity to reconnect spiritually as a family. Pray together before outings. Talk about God’s blessings around the dinner table. Use the beauty of creation to point children and grandchildren to the greatness of the Creator. Sometimes the most meaningful spiritual moments happen in simple conversations.

Most importantly, remember that our relationship with Christ is not seasonal. We do not follow Him only when life is structured and predictable. We follow Him in every season—busy seasons, quiet seasons, joyful seasons, and difficult seasons.

So enjoy the summer. Take the trip. Make the memories. Rest and recharge. But as you pack your bags, make sure you bring your faith with you.

The Lord does not take a vacation from loving, guiding, and caring for us. Let us not take a vacation from walking with Him.

**“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8). Even in summer, that invitation remains open.**

**In Christ,  
Dr. Searcy**

### IS YOUR LIFE ONE OF HUMILITY?

Pride and humility are at opposite ends of the self-assessment scale. Pride is focused on self while humility is focused on God and others. Humility doesn't mean we should think less of ourselves; it means we should think of ourselves less.

No one is born humble. That is why we are commanded to humble ourselves in James 4:10. None of the nine traits of the fruit of the spirit comes naturally to us. This includes humility. The positive side is that if we are commanded to seek humility, then it must be attainable.

The enemy of humility is pride. Proverbs 16:18 tells us pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. We have all seen the truth of that statement in peoples' lives through the years, maybe even in our own life.

Is there something wrong with striving to be the best or being recognized for our achievements? Not at all. But there is a thin line between wanting the best for God's glory verses our own glory. It all comes down to motivation. Why do we work hard and strive for excellence? Is it a matter of ego for us? Pride is a subtle enemy that can creep in at any time. If we grow dependent on the praise of other people, that means our happiness rests in other hands. If we don't get praised, we are deflated, humiliated, and even angry. Pride has a ravenous appetite, needing constant feeding and approval. Humility, on the other hand, is self-sustained by the grace and blessing of God.

Jesus certainly fulfilled the definition of humility, using one's power and resources for the good of others. Jesus submitted his will to the will of the father and exchanged his right to rule for the privilege of service.

How do we go about cultivating humility in our own life?

It takes humility to recognize our prideful tendencies; it is a lifelong quest not a once and done experience. Like lots of addiction and dependency workshops, the first step is recognizing that we have a problem called pride. Paul warned the Christians in Rome not to think of themselves more highly than they ought to think, according to Romans 12:3. One sure way to keep our pride in check is to have people around us who are willing to call us out when we are acting prideful. Also, gaining a biblical perspective on our role in life will keep us humble.

Humble people are always learning. They don't assume they have all the answers. They are humbly curious. They are always reading. They listen to the ideas of other people.

Nobody pays as much attention to us as we think they do. We take ourselves far more seriously than anyone else. We should develop the ability to laugh at ourselves.

Theodore Roosevelt our, twenty-sixth president, was a larger-than-life man. He loved the great outdoors. One of his habits was to take White House guests outdoors late at night and have them stare up at the stars in the blackness of heaven. After he and his guests had contemplated the vastness of space for a couple of minutes, he would say "Gentlemen, I believe we are small enough now to go to bed. When the most powerful man in the world is willing to contemplate his own smallness in light of God's vast universe, there is something of humility at work.

May we at Okatee Baptist Church experience the promise of James 4:10: Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up.

See you at our next opportunity for worship.

### WOM MEETING

Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm  
Fellowship Hall

VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING  
SUNDAY, 6/14 / 5:30PM

### FELLOWSHIP MEAL

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup> / 6PM  
Potluck Dinner - Bring your favorite entrée, side or dessert to share with others. The church will provide drinks.

### MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST

Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> / 8am  
All men and boys are invited for good food, fellowship, and a challenge for men.

CHURCH BINGO at OBC  
JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> / 2 - 4:30PM  
By Adult Team Ministry

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
SAVE THE DATES  
JULY 20 - 24TH / 6-8PM  
THEME: "COME ONE COME ALL"

ANNUAL SENIOR CELEBRATION  
SAVE THE DATE  
JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> / 10AM  
At Port Royal Baptist Church

JOIN US ANY TUESDAY AT 11:30AM  
FOR A PRAYER GATHERING  
IN THE PASTOR'S OFFICE



Gary Harrell from Rooms of Grace, Men's Halfway Home, in the Seabrook community on Hwy. 21 outside of Beaufort, will give a 20 minute presentation of information about the home at our Wednesday night service on June 3rd. WOM visited the home about 4 years ago and a couple of our men helped with some renovations at the home. Both WOM and the men's breakfast group have donated money and food to this organization. We hope you can be present for this presentation.

Our next meeting is Monday, June 8th at 1pm. All women are invited to join us for the rewarding experience of Women on Mission doing mission work in our area to help serve the community.

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS TEAM

**Leaders: Chris Campbell & Michael Robbins**

I want to start with praising and thanking God for guiding us and providing for us this past year and a half. We could see His hand in every aspect of the repair process. And now we're done! What a blessing it was to be able to worship our God together in the sanctuary! We still have some administrative things left with insurance, so we ask for your continued prayers for them, Delta Roofing, and the church.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Director: Gail Lenga**

Hello from the Children's Department. We are excited to be back in the sanctuary. During church time, our babies will use the nursery off the foyer. The Sunday School Nursery will remain in the Education Building. Any questions or concerns, please see Gail Lenga. We are still asking for additional nursery and church time volunteers. Please pray about this ministry opportunity.

**Promotion Sunday:** We will be recognizing our children and their achievements on Sunday, June 14th during the church service. Family and friends are welcome.

**VBS Save the Date:** Vacation Bible School's theme is "Come One, Come All" and will take place July 20-24th from 5:30 to 8:30pm. Volunteers are needed prior to and during the week of VBS. The first volunteer meeting is Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Please contact Gail Lenga at [glenga0705@gmail.com](mailto:glenga0705@gmail.com) or Glenda Lyon at [glyon0104@gmail.com](mailto:glyon0104@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer.

**Donations** of wrapped candy and carnival prizes are needed for VBS and are another way you can help out. Donations can be placed in the boxes in the foyer area of the church.

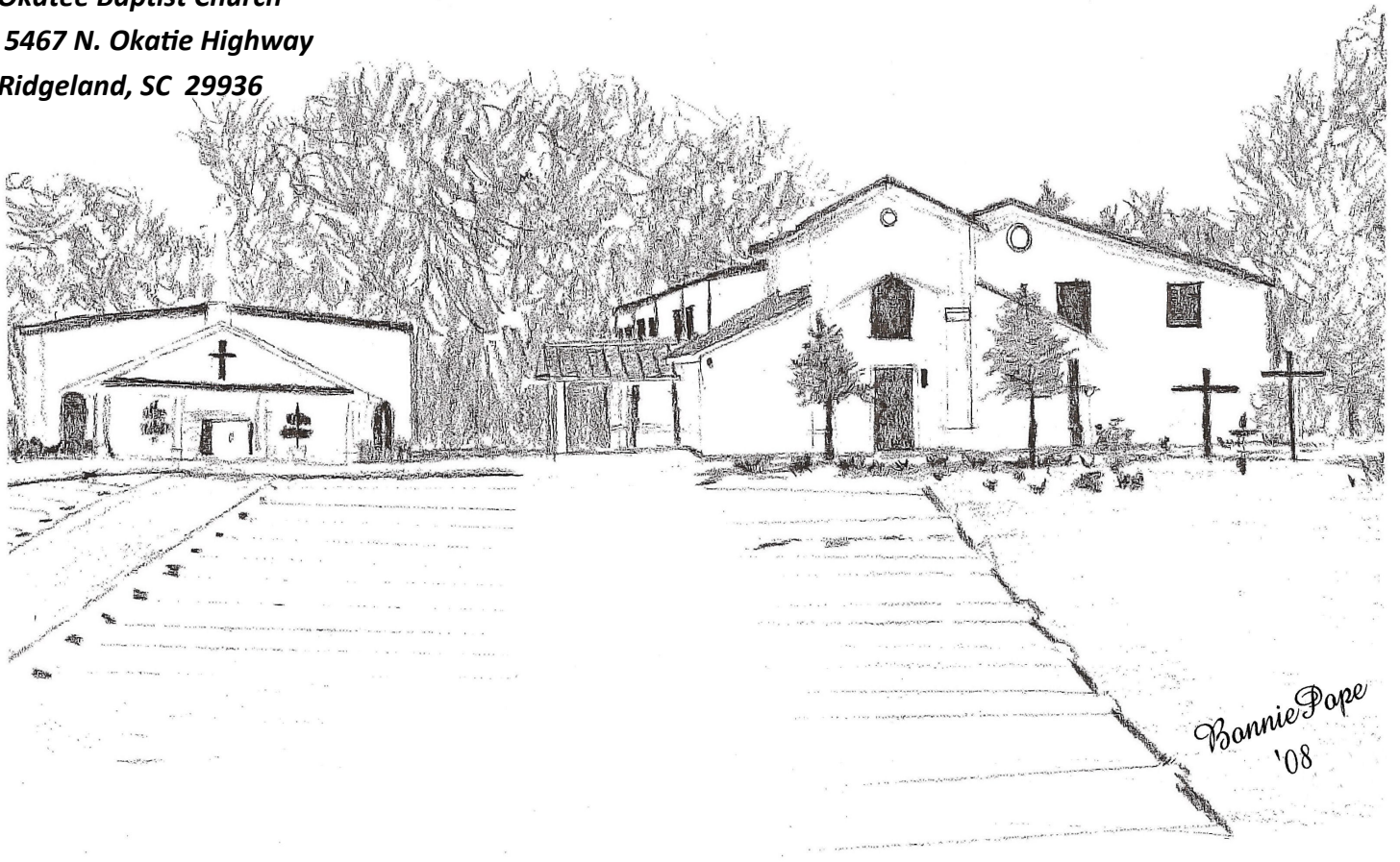
Thank you from the Children's Department.



**Remember to thank the dads, grandfathers, uncles, mentors, teachers, coaches, and pastors who have reflected God's love in your life. A card, phone call, or kind word can mean more than we realize. Also remember those grieving the loss of a father or whose experiences with fatherhood have been painful. The church is called to be a family, and God is the perfect Father to the fatherless.**

**Dr. Tim Searcy**

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



Thanks to all who participated and drove to the Savannah Riverboat Cruise on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The Gospel singing (and dancing) was inspiring, and the buffet food was great.

June 20<sup>th</sup>: A Bingo afternoon is planned in the Fellowship Hall from 2:00 - 4:30. Light refreshments will be provided. More details will be announced in church.

July 18<sup>th</sup>: Kelly Tours "A Blast from the Past" Performance. Cost \$194. Moranz Show in the Charleston Theater and lunch at the Charleston Crab House at 11:30. A box dinner will be provided on the way home. If we have more than 10, they will pick us up at the church.

July 30<sup>th</sup>: The Savannah River Baptist Association Senior Adult Celebration at Port Royal Baptist Church at 10am. Tickets are \$10 per person.

## **SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY**

**Team Leaders: Ted & Marilyn Janosko**

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 continuing to narrow our search. Please continue to keep the church, the search team, and our future pastor in your prayers.

## **PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE**

**Leader: Chris Campbell**