

SonLight

Okatee Baptist Newsletter
www.okateebaptist.com

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.



‘That’s just great!’ So, I was closing the book on the year 2020 in anticipation of God doing some incredible things in the New Year when COVID 19 found me. Just when I was ready to move forward, God hit the breaks. And I think Bill Copeland said it perfectly; “The Lord always seems to bring our prayers to a higher level.” I believe God is using the end of 2020 to call us to a higher level of prayer. I

know I have been praying for everyone in our church with urgency since I was tested positive for COVID 19 on Monday morning. I have been called to a higher more consistent level of prayer for the people of our church, for the future of our church, and for God to use this as a means to a fantastic end.

While we are going to have to hit the pause button with regards to church activities and moving forward in some of the processes to position us to have an impact for the sake of Jesus Christ, it will be a good time to pray for these processes.

Specifically, we need to be praying for our Pastor Search Team for when it is safe for them to meet God’s spirit will guide them.

We need to pray for adding 2 deacons to our 5 that currently serve. At this time in the life of our church, deacons are key in keeping our congregation connected and cared for, and the 5 (Jack Howard, Chuck Swanson, Bill Copeland, Phil Imhoff, and Allen Evans) are great Godly men who are doing an awesome job at caring for our people.

We need to pray for redeveloping our committee and team structures so we have people engaged in the work of ministry so we can effectively move forward in growing our church. It will take many people willing to serve in areas that they are passionate about to see a vibrant church reaching the lost for Jesus Christ.

We need to pray for a worship leader to help us reach new levels of worship on Sunday mornings. Suzanne has expressed that she is not able to serve in that capacity at this time due to her work schedule and transitions she continues to go through. She loves playing during our service and she loves her church family.

We need to pray for God’s spirit to move within our church; to keep us safe, keep us strong, and keep us passionate about living out our mission 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.

Please pray without ceasing.

Woody

JANUARY 2021

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DEACON FAMILY MINISTRY

Philip L. Imhoff

Phil grew up and lived in the Mansfield, Ohio area and has been retired since 2007. He spent most of his working years at the Tappan Stove Company and the City of Ontario. Over the years he has enjoyed classic car shows, and had a show truck. He and Mary have been married for 53 years. They have two daughters and five grandchildren. He came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior when he was a teenager; and was a member of the Brethren and Grace Brethren churches for over 40 years. He served where needed as part of the usher/greeter teams and helped to run the food pantry services. He and Mary moved to South Carolina two years ago and found Okatee Baptist Church to be their home church. He looks forward to helping in any area needed. Phil serves the following families in our church through the Deacon Family Ministry:

Thaddeuss & Nell Bailey	Lois Campbell
Marty & Marilyn Caprielian	Ervin Floyd
Dick & Norma Maresco	Roberta Hamilton
Harold & Maggie McLendon	Patricia Stern
Paul & Ashley Pender	Gloria Taggert

DEACONS' MEETING

The next monthly Deacons' meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12TH at 2:00 p.m. Please be sure to bring your Deacon notebook and your Deacon Family

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

The Quarterly Church Business meeting will be on Wednesday, January 27th at 6:00pm. . If you have any business to come before the church, please let Pastor Woody or Jack Howard, Chairman of Deacons, know before the meeting. We will be more than happy to add you to the agenda for the meeting Ministry book.

REPORT FROM THE DEACONS

The deacons met with the pastor and recommended suspending all church activities for the next 2 weeks through January 10th. The deacons will reevaluate the situation on January 11th to determine what is the safe and wise course of action in moving forward. Three people that were in the Christmas Eve service and Sunday morning service have tested positive for the Coronavirus and we desire that everyone be safe and we want to avoid an outbreak of the virus. That means no Wednesday services on December 30th and January 6th, and no Sunday morning services on January 3rd or 10th.

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Tentatively Scheduled to Resume January 17th

9:45 Sunday School Classes Available:

Ladies Class, taught by Suzanne Tomlinson, Second Floor of Education Building, Room 211
Men's Class, taught by Richard Patrick, Second Floor of Education Building, Room 210
COED III and Senior Adults Class. Class is combined and taught by Bill Copeland in Fellowship Hall behind the sanctuary.

11:00 Worship Service. Interim Pastor Woody Oliver.

If you miss a Sunday or are not able to come to church, you can hear the message on Okatee Baptist Church's FaceBook page live at 11:00am or on the church website, okateebaptist.com the following business day, located under the sermon tab.

6:00pm Wednesday evening - Bible study and prayer service followed by 6:45pm choir rehearsal.



WOMEN ON MISSION (WOMEN, AGES 18+)

Women on Mission will meet Monday, January 11TH, at 1:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. For first timers, please drive around to the back of the church and enter there.

In December, WOM donated over 100 knitted hats to the Bluffton Community Soup Kitchen. The Bluffton Community Soup Kitchen helps residents of Beaufort County that include sick and shut-ins, seniors, homeless, and working poor families. It is a donor supported volunteer driven organization that appreciates the women of Okatee Baptist Church.

NEW MEMBERS

Five people became members of Okatee Baptist Church in December. Please welcome as new members, Pastor Woody and Dena Oliver, their daughter, Olivia Oliver, and David and Laura Bub.

DEATHS

Perry Massey, 81, of Bluffton, South Carolina passed away peacefully at Brookdale Memory Care in Hattiesburg, MS on December 6, 2020. Perry's obituary is listed under Saul's Funeral Home at saulsfh.com.

Pastor Woody is available by phone (864-554-7335) for conversation or to schedule an appointment. He plans to return to the church office on Mondays from 8:00am to 2:30pm on January 18th. Feel free to set up a time and come by for coffee and conversation.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Church goal of \$10,000 Update

PRAISE THE LORD! We have passed our goal. Total offerings received is \$13,134.75. Thank you so much for your very generous and sacrificial giving. 100% of our gifts goes directly to support international missionaries. *Thank you again* for your offerings!

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR A NEW YEAR

"Do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 On the first day of a new year many of us wish each other a "Happy New Year!" But as we begin a new year, we need more than a hopeful greeting from the people around us. We need to listen to what God told Joshua about 3,400 years ago. As Joshua was about to lead God's people into the promised land, he had reason to be afraid. He had an enormous task ahead of him, and he was well aware of the danger that he and the people would soon be facing. He needed God's encouragement. A new year brings lots of questions: Will our health hold? Will we be able to manage COVID 19? Will we get back to some sense of normalcy? Will I live to see the end of this year? Will the economy improve? The Creator of the universe comes to us and says, "Don't be afraid: don't be discouraged." What happens in this coming year is not left to chance. God is in charge, and he promises to stay close: "The LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Many years later, the Lord Jesus made the same promise when he said, "I am with you always" Matthew 28:20. **That's the reason we can wish each other a "Happy New Year!"**

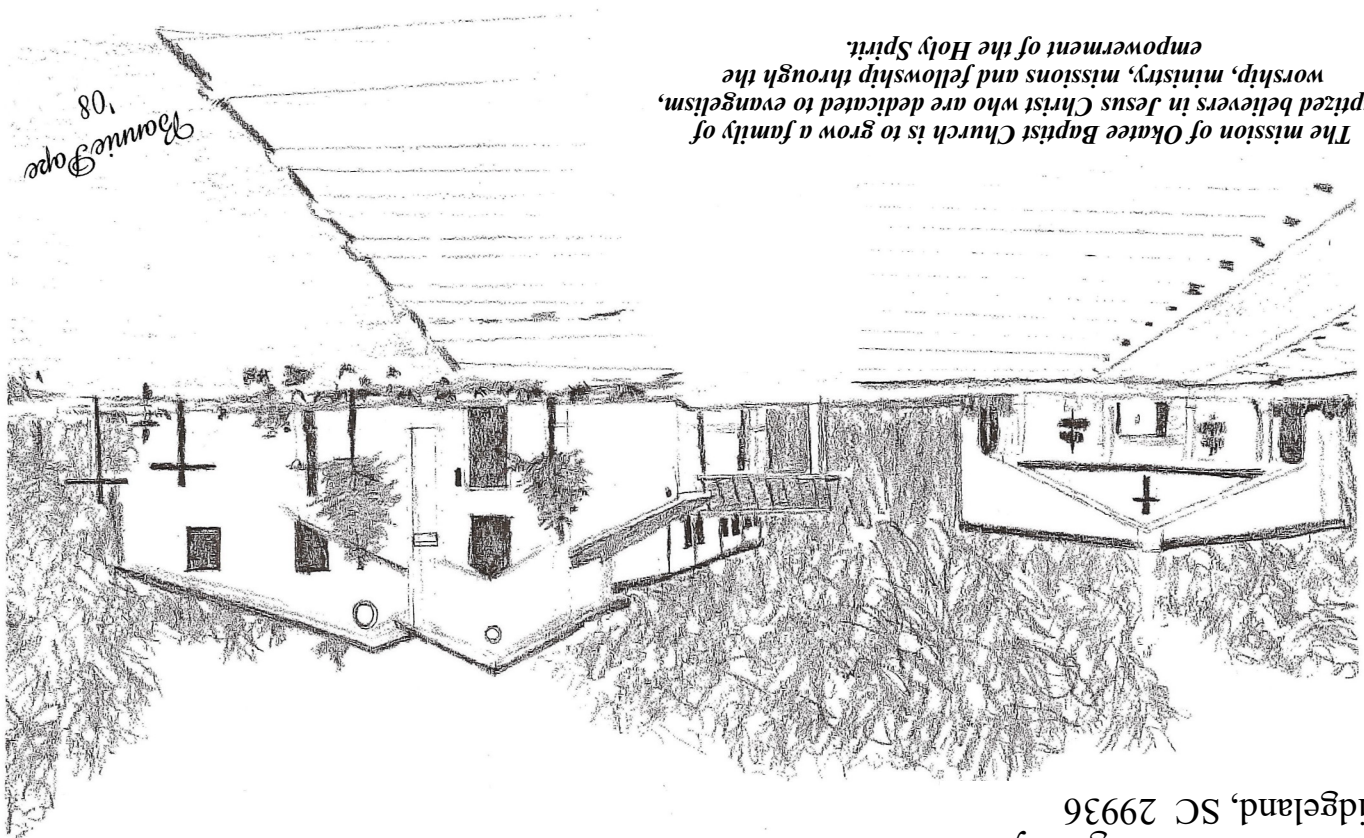
JANUARY DATES TO NOTE

January 1ST

Happy New Year!

ALL CHURCH ACTIVITIES ARE SUSPENDED FROM DECEMBER 29TH THROUGH JANUARY 10TH DUE TO COVID 19 PRECAUTIONS. DEACONS WILL REEVALUATE THE SITUATION ON JANUARY 11TH

January 11	1:00pm WOM Meeting in Fellowship Hall
January 12	2:00 pm Women's Prayer Group at Barbara Barrett's Home 2:00pm Deacons' Meeting
January 13	6:00pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study; 6:45 Choir Rehearsal
January 18	8:00am - 2:30pm Pastor Woody in Church Office
January 19	2:00 pm Women's Prayer Group at Barbara Barrett's Home
January 20	6:00pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study; 6:45 Choir Rehearsal
January 25	8:00am - 2:30pm Pastor Woody in Church Office
January 26	2:00 pm Women's Prayer Group at Barbara Barrett's Home
January 27	6:00pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study; 6:45 Choir Rehearsal



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