

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.



SPRING HAS SPRUNG

March 2021 has proven to be a breakout month for Okatee Baptist Church. Members are beginning to return after a Covid induced leave of absence, we are experiencing new visitors every Sunday, and the spirit in our church points to renewal and revival. God is showing up and showing off by providing a piano player (Tom McTeer) who appeared when Suzanne had to be out for 2 weeks, and God has provided Jeff Herrin to lead our worship. The choir is back preparing to lead us in worship at the 11:00 service on Easter morning, and our Annie Armstrong mission offering surpassed \$16,000 which eclipsed our goal of \$15,000.

Earlier in the year, I preached on being a spirit led church which contrasted with being a man led church. Of course, God uses us to serve and lead, but without the spirit of God, we become like the church of Ephesus in Revelation 2: a church known for their deeds, hard work, and perseverance, but a church that has forsaken their love for Jesus Christ. Truly, we are demonstrating our love for Jesus Christ in the things we do, the way we care, the way we love the Word of God, and the desire to be with one another.

I am so excited to be a part of what God is doing at Okatee, and I love love love being able to journey with you as we expand God's kingdom by growing in Christ and reaching the lost. I do believe that 2021 will be a breakout year for Okatee Baptist Church.

While we usher in Easter, the gateway to an exciting and vibrant year at Okatee, we will take time to honor our history with a memorial service for Pastor Tim Tomlinson (April 11), and a Sunday dedicated to Suzanne Tomlinson (April 25).

We will memorialize Pastor Tim during our morning service in the sanctuary on April 11, then finish by dedicating a dogwood tree planted in his honor in the prayer garden. Please extend in invitation to anyone who has had a relationship with Tim or Suzanne.

Then on Sunday, April 25, Suzanne's last Sunday at Okatee, we will pay tribute as we thank Suzanne for her years of service and friendship at Okatee. We will honor her and praise God during the service, then enjoy a finger food fellowship in the commons area of the Education building. Suzanne has sold her home in Ridgeland and accepted a position with Sun Trust Bank in Columbia where she can be closer to family. We are so appreciative of Suzanne and her beautiful spirit and while we are sad to see her leave, we are happy for her as she begins the next season of her life.

Pastor Woody

APRIL 2021

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DEACON FAMILY MINISTRY

Bill Copeland

Dr. Bill and Sue Copeland joined Okatee Baptist Church in 2017 and they're enjoying the fellowship of Okatee Baptist.

They moved to Sun City to be close to their children in Savannah, GA, and Mt. Pleasant, SC. They have three children, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Bill is a retired dentist, having spent 38 years in full time practice and 13 years in part-time practice in the Atlanta area. Twenty of those years he served as part-time faculty in Emory University School of Dentistry. Bill has been on Medical Dental mission trips to the Dominican Republic-Haiti area. He, along with six other dentists, established a dental clinic in a Methodist children's home in Decatur, GA. Sue is a retired school teacher.

Bill was ordained as a Deacon in 1965 and has served in three different churches. Bill and Sue have served in various ministries in previous churches. Bill has taught Sunday School for more than 35 years.

Bill serves the following families in our church through the Deacon Family Ministry:

Raymond & Peggy Enslow	Shelby Land
Marty & Billy Grant	Richard Murphy
Jack & Harriet Mullett	Jim Reeves
Stan & Carol Smith	Tony Roberts
Nell Simmons	Suzanne Steel
Brenda Sutton	

DEACONS' MEETING

The next monthly Deacons' meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13th at 2:00 p.m. Please be sure to bring your Deacon notebook and your Deacon Family Ministry book.

REPORT FROM THE DEACONS

I have been so excited to see how God is working in our church. We continue to have new couples and families visiting our church each week.

Covid has touched us all in some way. As we get our shots, wear our masks, and continue social distancing, we need to call our friends, family and neighbors and invite them to church. Easter is a great time to call! God is doing His work, and we need to do ours.

The deacons will be calling our assigned families. Hopefully you will be able to attend Easter service.

God is good!
Jack Howard

CHURCH OFFERING

Please be faithful in your financial giving. You can mail a check to the church or drop it off. Call the church office to be sure someone is there before you come at 843-987-0885.

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

The Quarterly Business Meeting of our church is Wednesday, April 28th, at 6:00pm. This is a business meeting to get everyone caught up on the programs and ministries of our church, along with new business which may be brought to the church floor. Please be sure to have a written report for your area of leadership. If you have any new business to be brought before the church, please let Jack Howard or Pastor Woody know as soon as possible. And, let's keep the spirit of unity and love in all we do for the Lord.

BLOOD DRIVE

Okatee Baptist Church hosted a blood drive on March 9th. Donors helped to save 15 lives by donating their blood. Thank you to all that donated.



WOMEN ON MISSION (WOMEN, AGES 18+)

Women on Mission will meet Monday, April 12TH, at 1:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. For first timers, please drive around to the back of the church and enter there.

WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

All ladies are invited to a Women's Prayer Group Tuesdays at 2:00 pm. For location and gate pass, call 843-705-2762.

DEATHS

Brad Dillman passed away peacefully the week of March 8th while under hospice care. Please be in prayer for his wife, Bobbie and their family.

Larry Roberts, Suzanne Tomlinson's father, passed away on March 16th while under the care of hospice. Please be in prayer for Suzanne and her family.

NEW MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome our newest member, Judith Rush, who joined Okatee Baptist Church on March 21st.

CHURCH SERVICE ONLINE

If you miss a Sunday or are not able to come to church, you can hear the message on **FaceBook.com/okateebaptistchurch** live at 11:00am or the following day on the church website, **okateebaptist.com** located under the sermon tab.

Pastor Woody is available by phone (864-554-7335) for conversation or to schedule an appointment. He will be in the church office on Mondays from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Feel free to set up a time and come by for coffee and conversation.

TIM TOMLINSON MEMORIAL SERVICE APRIL 11TH

We will celebrate the life and ministry of Tim Tomlinson during our morning service on April 11. Due to covid, we were not able to honor and memorialize Pastor Tim last year. Tim joined God in heaven on March 16, 2020 at the age of 61. He was a devoted son, husband, father, papa, and friend who never met a stranger. Tim dedicated his life to sharing God's love as he pastored several churches around South Carolina, most recently as pastor of Okatee Baptist Church for the past 14 years.

Born in Homestead, FL on April 15, 1958, Tim was a graduate of Columbia High, Baptist College at Charleston, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He had a love for his church, the outdoors, fishing, and helping others with projects.

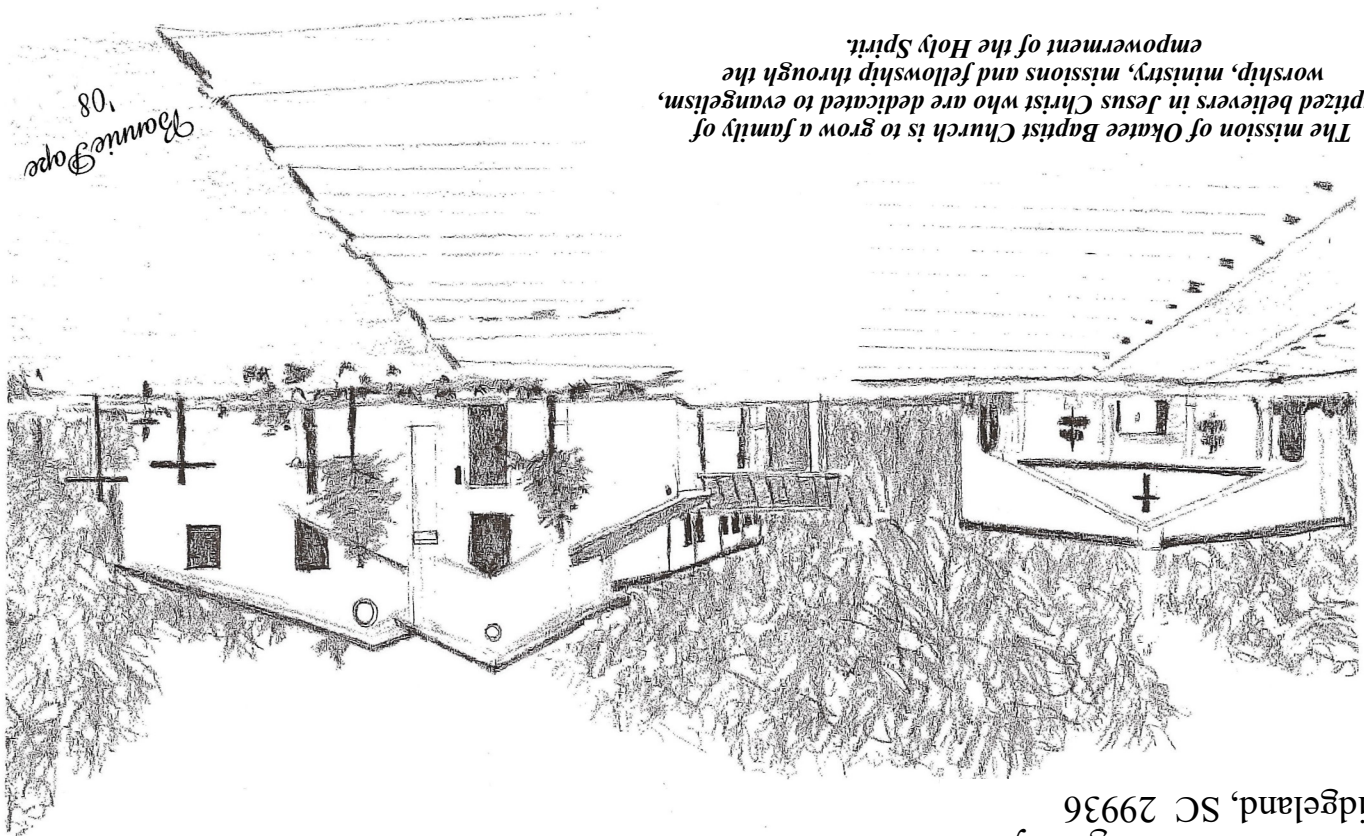
He is survived by his soulmate and wife of 39 years, Suzanne, along with 2 daughters, Ashley of San Diego, CA (Olivia) and Kim of Lake City, SC. He is also survived by 1 granddaughter, Arden (San Diego, CA).

SUZANNE TOMLINSON SUNDAY Sunday, April 25th

We will honor Suzanne Tomlinson during our morning service on April 25th for her dedicated service to the Lord through Okatee Baptist Church. April 25th will be Suzanne's last Sunday at Okatee as she is moving to Columbia, SC. Suzanne has faithfully served with her late husband since January 1, 2006 as she has been the exemplary pastor's wife, choir director, piano player, and cherished friend to our congregation and many clients at Sun Trust Bank in Okatie. We will have a finger food fellowship after the service to honor Suzanne.

APRIL DATES TO NOTE

- April 2 **GOOD FRIDAY:** 6:00 Evening Worship with the Lord's Supper
Church Office Closed
- April 4 **EASTER:** 8:30 Worship Service; 9:45 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship Service
- April 5 8:00am - 3:30pm Pastor Woody in Church Office
- April 6 2:00pm Women's Prayer Group at home of Barbara Barrett
- April 7 6:00pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
- April 11 9:45 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship Service in Celebration of
Tim Tomlinson's Life
- April 12 8:00am - 3:30pm Pastor Woody in Church Office
1:00pm WOM Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- April 13 2:00pm Deacons' Meeting
2:00pm Women's Prayer Group at home of Barbara Barrett
- April 14 6:00pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study; 6:45 Choir
- April 18 9:45 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship Service
- April 19 8:00am - 3:30pm Pastor Woody in Church Office
- April 20 2:00pm Women's Prayer Group at home of Barbara Barrett
- April 21 6:00pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study; 6:45 Choir
- April 25 9:45 Sunday School; 11:00 Worship Service - Suzanne Tomlinson Sunday -
Finger Foods Following Worship Service
- April 26 8:00am - 3:30pm Pastor Woody in Church Office
- April 27 2:00pm Women's Prayer Group at home of Barbara Barrett
- April 28 6:00pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study; 6:45 Choir



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