

It is so hard to imagine that it is “that time” of year again.

For some people, “that time” is an exciting time of shopping, cooking, decorating, and entertaining. The commercials on television are touting the “specials” for shoppers and recipes for culinary delight. Many retailers are eager for people to open up their wallets, swipe their debit cards, and shop “until they drop” for things needed, wanted, or just dreamed of. Homes and yards glisten with the aura of holiday festivities. Trees are decorated, stockings are hung, and tunes of the holiday season are sung.

For others, “that time” of year is full of heartache, sadness, isolation, and loneliness. Holidays can cause emotions that may have been hidden behind “happy masks and faces,” to all of a sudden rise to the surface. Feelings of guilt and hurt show up that had been compartmentalized in the dark and secret place of our hearts and minds. We ponder thoughts like, “What could I have done different” or “I’d love to talk with daddy or momma and tell them...” Many folks are overlooked and forgotten at this time of year. Others are taken for granted.

For centuries the creation groaned for something new. God had spun the world into existence. He blew breath into mankind and gave His created ones the privilege of living on the sphere we call earth. The beauty was magnificent, the foliage was majestic, and the animals were marvelous. And God saw that it was good while allowing mankind to manage His creation. As we live in the epilogue of creation we can see the full story as mankind made a mess of God’s handiwork. Sin entered the world. Hate permeated the population. Greed began to grow and separate the enlarging nations. Wars broke out. And it seemed hopeless as darkness overcame the world.

But... truly “that time” came at just the right time... it was God’s time and truly “the most wonderful time of the year.” The Christmas season is full of hope, peace, love, and joy... the themes of Advent: A time of waiting and anticipating the coming of The Messiah. Candles are lit that symbolically light the world during the dark time of the year. As they are lit before our eyes we have the opportunity to realize that God brings each of us hope, peace, love, and joy.

It is my prayer that the reason we celebrate Advent: the coming of the Messiah: Jesus Christ our Lord, the only begotten Son of God will light our hearts and lives like never before. When our lives shine forth the love of God then our world has a different perspective! The darkness that appears to be encroaching will be overcome. The sadness and sorrow experienced by many will be shattered. The hurting and heartbroken will find hope. And we all will have peace.

Know Jesus, know peace. Give Jesus, give peace.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a great life... for truly this time is a wonderful time... to say

It’s a joy to serve Jesus as your Pastor.  
Rev Kev

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## Keep in Touch!



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Bluefield, VA 24605

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12401 Gayton Road  
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Gayton Terrace  
Richmond, VA 23228  
804.740.2149

### *Remember our Nursing Home Members:*

Evelyn Grimes, Envoy at The Meadows, 2715 Dogtown Road, Goochland, VA 23063

Ellis Holloway, Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Health Care, 1601 Broad Rock Blvd., Room 123, Richmond, VA 23224

Bernice Peasley, Parham Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center, 2400 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228



**Great Christmas Gift! The Gift That Keeps On Giving.** When you purchase [Cooking with Virginia Baptists](#), you're actually giving twice this holiday season: 1<sup>st</sup> to the person who receives it (even if it's you!) & 2<sup>nd</sup> to VA Baptist hunger ministries supported by the

proceeds from the two-volume set, with over 1,000 yummy recipes. Along with great recipes from churches around the state, there's a little bit of history too. All churches represented by the folks who sent in recipes are recognized in a center section with a church profile.

Available in two volumes: Meals and More, Sweets and Spreads. Cost is \$15 per volume or \$25 for the set.

#### To purchase:

[Order your cookbooks online](#) or send mail-in order requests to: Cooking with Virginia Baptists, Virginia Baptist Mission Board, 2828 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294, Make checks payable to VBMB, and designate "Cookbook" in the memo line.

**We will be cleaning up the prayer concern list that appears in the newsletter. Please let us know BY December 18<sup>th</sup>, if someone should remain on the list. Thank you.**

## REFERENCE INFORMATION

### Deadlines:

Newsletter – 18<sup>th</sup> of each month  
Bulletin – 12 noon of each Thursday

Submit **articles** to [communication@Oakland-Baptist.com](mailto:communication@Oakland-Baptist.com)

**Prayer requests** should be e-mailed to [communication@Oakland-Baptist.com](mailto:communication@Oakland-Baptist.com) or call the church office and leave a message (804) 556-3550.

**Website requests** should be sent to: [webmaster@Oakland-Baptist.com](mailto:webmaster@Oakland-Baptist.com)

### **NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE #, BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CHANGES:**

Please notify YOUR DEACON with ANY CHANGES to your personal information. This will assist in assuring birthdays and anniversaries are correct and included in the newsletter at the appropriate time. The changes include: name, address, phone # changes, new births, deaths, weddings and divorce information for name changes or anniversary deletions to keep the church database updated for newsletter and other mailings to members and non-members. When we don't have your correct mailing address, your mail is returned to the post office and the church is charged return postage.

### **HOME ADDRESS and PHONE NUMBER:**

Kevin & Danette Moen  
P.O. Box 1342  
Bowling Green, VA 22427  
804-633-2873 – home  
804.366.5672 – Kevin's cell phone  
Kevin's email: [pastor@oakland-baptist.com](mailto:pastor@oakland-baptist.com)

If you would like to receive information by e-mail from Kevin, our pastor, email him to be added and you will be added to his Oakland Church list.



### **YOUR OBC website**

is constantly being updated. Please check it often for updated information: [www.oakland-baptist.com](http://www.oakland-baptist.com) and please click the "contact us" to give us any suggestions on what you'd like to see included. Thank you.

# Happy Birthday!

Virginia MacDonald	12/1
Lesley Alford	12/2
Ellis Holloway	12/3
Billy Walton	12/6
Jimmy Lloyd	12/7
Rob Strelbel	12/7
Peggy Bartley	12/10
Crystal Hicks	12/10
Amy Fields	12/13
Lauren Wagner	12/13
Brad Goff	12/14
Jacqueline Matysek	12/15
Leona Kay Oglesby	12/15
Dennis Gammon	12/17
Judy Gordon	12/17
Joey Hamrick	12/17
Linda Dillon	12/18
Robert Parrish	12/18
Jill Snead	12/18
Warren Hicks	12/19
Theresa Hicks	12/20
Caleb Franklin	12/22
Mark Brooking	12/23
Wendy Grady	12/25
Phil Farmer	12/26
Richard Klaty	12/26
Gail Pillsbury	12/26
Linda Proffitt	12/26
Mike Smith	12/26
Wanda Kirby	12/27
Bruce Alford	12/28
Timothy Jarrell	12/28
Lorraine Klein	12/30
Donald Ware	12/30

+++++



# Happy Anniversary!

Jason & Jamie Snead	12/3
Les & Pam Bradshaw	12/5
Vance & Beth Willis	12/7
Randy & LaWana Huff	12/9
Wilford & Shirley Bowyer	12/14
Bill & Jeni DeRusha	12/21
Robert & Sharon Atkinson	12/28
Robert & Louise Parrish	12/31
Thomas & Billie Reid	12/31

## WHAT'S UP WITH THE YOUTH THESE DAYS?

**YOUTH OVERNIGHTER - - December 2 - -** The OBC Youth will be taking part in the Overnighter at Life Assembly Church in Crozier, VA. We are hoping to make this more than the average lock-in experience by having a guest speaker and band geared toward Youth to lead worship. Along with worship we are also planning on having icebreakers and a competition in which youth groups can get to know other young Christians in Central Virginia. Following the competition we will have free time. Options for free time include movies, board games, video games, etc. This will allow youth members to get to know each other more closely and wind down before bed.

Our overall goal is to instill the understanding that we are all one in the body of Christ. It is so easy for teens to fall into a habit of not accepting others and making Christianity a competition. We are all stronger together in Christ. The Youth Overnighter is a great opportunity to persuade young Christians to just that thought. This will also give them an opportunity to introduce Christ to those outside their group.

Permission slips and fees are due by Sunday, November 27. Students attending should be at OBC no later than 6:30pm on Friday, December 2. Do not let your youth miss this awesome opportunity to grow in faith.

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - - December 3, 8:00-10:00am - -** The Youth will help out with OBC's Breakfast with Santa the morning following the Overnighter. There's nothing better than pancakes and Christmas cheer to rouse tired teenagers after a night of fun and fellowship.

**NURSING HOME VISIT - - December 14 - -** The Youth will be making a nursing home visit to Envoy at the Meadows to sing carols and celebrate the birth of Christ. Youth members should be at OBC no later than 6:30pm and will return by 8:00pm.

**OBCY CHRISTMAS PARTY - - December 21- -** The Youth will celebrate the birth of their savior on this night instead of their regularly scheduled meeting.

**FALL/WINTER MISSION - - MARINES IN AFGHANISTAN - -** The OBC Youth will be sending packages to the Marines of Fox Company deployed in Afghanistan. Many books have been saved from last year to be sent, and new items list has yet to be determined. That being said we will hold off on items collection, though a monetary donation is still needed. Monetary donations will be used to send the packages. Please contact Ali Marks if you are led to donate.

**NOTES, MISSION OPPORTUNITIES and ANNOUNCEMENTS**



The Oakland Angel tree is up. We have 4 families with a total of 8 children we want to make this a Merry Christmas for this year. Please pick an angel and sign up on the sheet. There are a couple of items this year that a couple of people may want get together and buy, one being a bike. Please to do not wrap any of the items and have them at the Church by Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, since we will be delivering them on the 10th. Any questions please see Sandy Harper (556-3694).




Oakland Baptist Church  
invites you to

# Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 3  
8am - 10am

Enjoy a free pancake breakfast and  
have your picture taken on Santa's lap!



The choir will be presenting "Jesus, There is Something About That Name" on Sunday morning, Dec. 11th at 11 am. If you would like to share in our cantata please see Sharon, Shearin, or Lesley. We will practice on Wednesday nights at 8pm and will have a dress rehearsal on Sat. Dec.10th (time to be announced).



**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions—Goal \$1,000**  
This year's Week of Prayer for International Missions will be December 4 – 11. Prayer guides and Offering Envelopes are available in hallway. Focus will be on Tokyo, Jerusalem, Karachi, London, Johannesburg, Dongguan, and Rio de Janeiro. Please pray for our missionaries and give generously--Every penny you give to the [Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®](http://www.lottiechristmas.com) supports missionaries as they share the Gospel overseas. Offering accepted the entire month of December. Thank you Oakland for your generous support in all our Missions projects.

# Baptist Buzz...

Excerpts from

News from the WMU, Goshen Baptist Association, & Virginia Baptist...



The vision to *ReJoice, ReClaim, ReJesus* during the BGAV Annual Meeting presented lofty goals for those gathered in Richmond last week. Virginia Baptists rejoiced together & renewed relationships; we can certainly reclaim our proud heritage as Virginia Baptists; & our speaker, Alan Hirsch, challenged us in many ways to refocus our churches & ourselves on our "Wild Messiah," Jesus.

In addition to the challenging messages from Alan Hirsch & the inspiring music of the [Annie Moses Band](#), those gathered also heard an uplifting report from Executive Director John Upton about how Baptists are making a difference around the world. Several important decisions were also made: [Dr. Mark Croston](#), pastor of [East End Baptist Church](#) in Suffolk, was elected as the first African-American president of the BGAV & messengers agreed to restore ties with [Averett University](#) after severing them in 2005.

Read more about the meeting or see a "photo story" by visiting:

[http://www.vbmb.org/Communications/Video\\_AN-Features\\_1111-November.cfm#Photostory](http://www.vbmb.org/Communications/Video_AN-Features_1111-November.cfm#Photostory).

Dr. Croston's election, the decision to restore ties with Averett University, and the 2012 Budget in the [Religious Herald's coverage](#) of the event.

## Reflections on the BGAV Annual Meeting from your representatives...

For the last 28 years I have enjoyed going to the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) meetings around the state. It is always great to reconnect with peers and friends from days gone by. I love to hear what God is doing with Virginia Baptists stateside and around the world, but a couple of highlights for me from our 2011 gathering in Richmond included:

- 1: The Report of our Mission Board and especially our Executive Director, John Upton in his work with the Baptist World Alliance. The impact of our ministry is truly phenomenal as we are doing amazing things. But to see John with the Pope was beyond me!
- 2: The worship experience with the Annie Moses Band and the wisdom from Alan Hirsch moved me in new and exciting ways... I will hopefully never forget the words, "The church doesn't have a mission, The Mission has the Church." We are the solution to the needs of the world.

There are exciting days ahead for Virginia Baptists! ~ Kevin Moen

*Speaker, Alan Hirsch, and The Annie Moses Band were excellent. The theme "ReJesus, ReDisciple, ReMission" was presented by Alan in easy to understand language. ReJesus: Jesus lies at the heart of the renewal of the church. It's not what you believe but how you live it out. He asked the question, "What would happen if Jesus turned up at your church?" Would the church recognize him? God created man in His own image. We shouldn't make God/Jesus in our image. Jesus is absolutely right about everything. He should be the center piece of every Christians' life. ReDisciple: The Great Commission calls us to be disciples to all nations. Discipleship means becoming more and more like Jesus. We need to share our faith in ways that make sense to all people and this may mean changing the way we do things. ReMission: We are the missionaries and we need to reach across cultural barriers to share Jesus in the community. We plant the seed, God will harvest it. I thoroughly enjoyed the Annie Moses Band and the way they shared their love for Christ through music. I definitely had a great time. ~ Sharon Kincaid*

Virginia Baptist are busy and excited about what they are doing in our world today. That excitement was contagious at the conference this year in Richmond. What struck me the most and what stands out in my mind is the idea that the church doesn't have a mission but the mission has a church. I am grateful for the opportunity to attend. ~ Pat Groome

# Baptist Buzz...continued

Excerpts from

News from the WMU, Goshen Baptist Association, & Virginia Baptist...

## Reflections on the BGAV Annual Meeting from your representatives...continued

What spoke most to me was a breakout session about Illegal Aliens. Illegal aliens should be called non registered immigrants because illegal means you've done something wrong. These people haven't done anything wrong; they just don't know our protocol. We should deal with them the way Jesus would deal with them.. 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40 ~ Lesley Alford

I have enjoyed the BGAV Meeting for several years as a vendor with the Architectural firm that I work for, but I was anxious to go the 1<sup>st</sup> time last year as a messenger from Oakland. I had such a great time last year that I knew that I wanted to continue to go. I am so glad that I was able to go; it blesses me so to reconnect with old friends, fellowship & worship with other Christians, learn from the presenters, & learn about what Virginia Baptist are doing here and around the world! Alan Hirsch, author of "ReJesus" was raised a Jew but came to know Jesus Christ. He reminded us that we try to make God and His word into what we need it to be to justify our actions...but God never changes and His word is always true. Jesus isn't an expression of who WE are...we are supposed to be expressions of who HE IS! The music by the Annie Moses Band was awesome. It was quite an experience to hear their family story, to see their love of music, each other, and God; it was such a blessing. I encourage each of you to read some of Alan Hirsch's work, listen to the music of the Annie Moses Band, and attend a BGAV meeting in the future...you will not regret it. Thank you for allowing me to attend as an Oakland messenger. ~ Sherry Alston



## Ordinary Life, Extraordinary God....it's a beautiful exchange

The cool, crisp air and beautiful fall leaves provided a wonderful backdrop for over 800 women (and a few brave men) who gathered for the Women's Get Away, November 4-6. Jo Saxton and Sally Breen of 3D Ministries challenged us to examine the labels that define and limit our ordinary lives, and allow our extraordinary God to make an exchange to restore our identity as the 'Azar' we are created to be, and release us into the fullness of His calling. Contrasted to Rachel and Leah whose relationship was characterized by competition and comparison, Ruth and Naomi inspire us to engage in discipling other women through rescue (helping), relationship (serving) and redemption (moving from loss to life). You can listen to the Podcast of the messages, by visiting: <http://wmuv.org/events/get-away/get-away-podcasts/>



## Holy Land Experience - November 26-December 4, 2012

Would you like to have a life-changing and never to be forgotten experience? It is our joy to invite you to join us on a trip to the Bible Lands where you will find a new dimension in understanding Christian history and the life of our Lord. We will visit places where Jesus walked, lived, taught, performed miracles, where He was crucified and raised from the dead. We will take a boat ride on the Sea of Gallilee, worship in the Garden of Gethsemane, and much more. Contact Mike Durham for more information at 540.894.4234.

**WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Deacon of the Week</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Extended Session</b>
04	Betsy Young	Hazel Morgan	Alisha Fields
11	Sherry Alston	Marie Nester	Sandy Harper
18	Pat Groome	Shirley Shelton	Michelle Alford
25	Lonnie Kincaid	Evelyn Wade	Teresa Groome



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> 6:30pm Youth Overnighter	<u>3</u>  8:00am – 10:00am Breakfast with Santa
<u>4</u> 9:45am-Sunday School 11am Worship 12:30 Deacons Meeting	<u>5</u> 6:45pm Beth Moore Women's Study: Loving Well – Session 2	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> 7pm & Bible study 8pm Choir Practice	<u>8</u> 7:15pm WOM Evening Group	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u> 9:45am-Sunday School 11am Worship - Cantata	<u>12</u> 10am WOM Morning Group 6:45pm Beth Moore Women's Study: Loving Well – Session 3	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> 6:30 pm Youth to The Meadows 7pm Bible study 8pm Choir Practice	<u>15</u> 10:00am Seniors at Holly Grove	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>18</u> 9:45am-Sunday School 11am Worship 11:15 Children's Worship	<u>19</u> 6:45pm Beth Moore Women's Study: Loving Well – Session 4	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> 7pm Bible study 7pm OBCY Christmas Party 8pm Choir Practice	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>25</u> 9:45am-Sunday School 11am Worship 	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> 6pm WNS 7pm & Bible study 8pm Choir Practice	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>

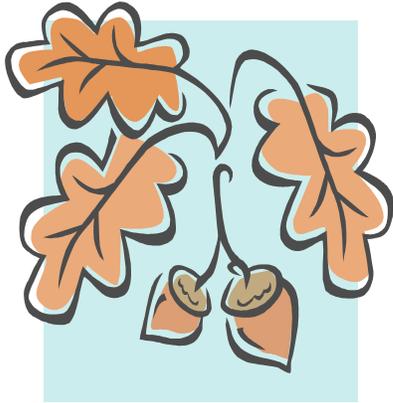
# The Acorn

P.O. Box 99  
Gum Spring, VA 23065

Church Office: 804-556-3550  
(please leave a message)

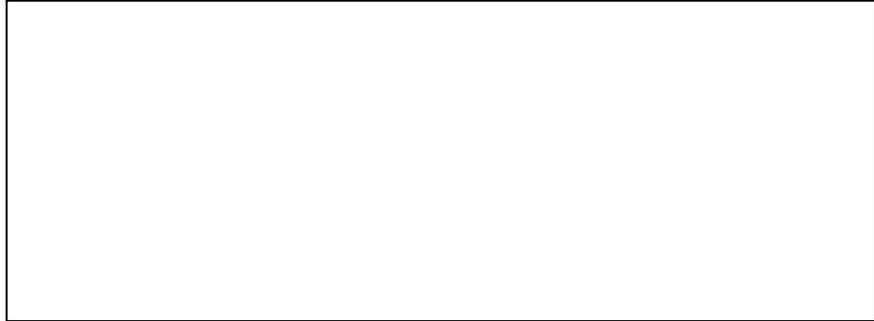
web address:

[www.Oakland-Baptist.com](http://www.Oakland-Baptist.com)



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## **Remembered in our hearts and prayers:**



Steve & Lesley Alford  
Amanda Alston's friend, Kyndall  
Lillian Armstrong  
Atwood Family  
Shirley Bath  
Shirley Bowyer  
John Clayton  
Ruth Coleman  
Lucy Cook, Sandy Harper's mother  
Ken Custalow  
Betty Elliott (Ruth Coleman's niece)  
Fields Family  
Dennis Gammon  
Amanda George (Moldova Missionary)  
Margie Gonzalez & her sister  
Goodman Family  
Velma Goodwin, Shirley Bath's mother  
Carolyn Grant  
Pat Groome  
Jim Hamrick  
Jim Hawks (Gladys' cousin)  
Lisa Hernandez  
Dwain Jackson  
Betty Jarrell, Tammy Brooking's  
mother  
Bruce & Erin LePointe  
Jim Lear & His Family

Mary Leistra (Gladys's sister in law)  
Ruby Lent  
Rhonda Lloyd's Cousin - Scott  
Kelly Mims (Gladys Nester's cousin)  
Aerial Moen  
Angela Montgomery (Shirley Bath's niece)  
Frank Moran  
Gladys Nester  
Marie Nester's son & granddaughter  
Harriett Osgood  
Mary Pitts (Friend of Moen's)  
Gerald Pleasants  
Travis Pope (Gladys' daughter-in-law's  
brother)  
Wanda Powell (Shirley Bowyers daughter)  
Mandy Powers  
Monty Rose  
Mike Sherrill  
Daisy Showalter, Shirley Bowyer's niece  
Betty Stanley  
Guy Stillwell, Rhonda Lloyd's cousin  
Tom Sutterfield & family in the loss of his  
cousin, Myra Jane  
Alice Troy  
Jane & Bobby Ukrop  
Freeman Walton  
Kathy Wade

Sandi Williams & her brother  
Tiny Willis

Breakfast with Santa; Christmas Season &  
Children's Ministry

**Remember our Nursing Home Members.**  
**Their names and addresses are listed**  
**under**  
**"Keep in Touch" section.**

**Remember our Servicemen & Their**  
**Families:**

*USMC 2/4 Fox Company (Afghanistan)*  
*Chris Durham, Iraq*  
*Sully Edwards, Out on Deployment*  
*Sgt. Allen Gordon (Deployed)*  
*Daniel Gregory, Army - Stateside*  
*Chris Humphrey-Afghanistan*  
*Ethan Payne, U.S.M.C.*

**We will be cleaning up the prayer concern  
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Thank you.**