



THE ACORN

January 2021

Located at:
2965 Oakland Church Rd.
Gum Spring, VA 23065

On the web at:
www.Oakland-Baptist.com
Office: 804-556-3550

Dear Church Family,

A new year, 2021, is dawning. It's interesting that the name of this month of January finds its origins in the mythological Roman god, *Janus*. It was said that he had two faces, one to look back into the past and one to look toward the future. And I suppose that is what many of us do (not that we are two-faced!). As a new year begins, we tend to take stock of our life, and especially of the year which is closing. And we imagine what the future, and especially this new year, will hold for us, for those dear to us, and for this world in which the Lord has placed us.

As we look back on the extraordinary year that 2020 has been, we stand amazed and grateful for the many ways the Lord had blessed us, individually and as a congregation. By His grace, we were able to continue to "worship together" via DVD, and the distribution process kept us connected as the deacons delivered the DVDs, as well as by reaching out to one another through prayer, phone calls, texts, and other means. And God has blessed us with a wonderful facility, whose size and layout allowed us to resume in-house worship, and then Sunday School and Wednesday evening activities, in a safe environment. Through it all, God has blessed us through His Word, through wonderful fellowship, and as we have ministered to one another in so many ways through prayer and countless acts of kindness.

As we look toward the year before us, I am praying for us as a congregation to grow in spirit and in number, as we faithfully seek the Lord in our life, as we immerse ourselves in the Word and in prayer, and as we reach out to others with the gospel. The word for 2020 was **The Word**. That very naturally leads us to the word for 2021, **Prayer**. It is through prayer that we commune with the Lord, that we experience His power at work in us, and that we witness His response to prayer in the lives of those for whom we intercede. Oakland is very much a praying church, and my desire is to see us continue to grow in our prayer life. It is as we bend our knee in prayer that we experience God's greatest working in and through our life.

Have you ever watched a bird sleeping on its perch, and never falling off. How does he manage to do this? The secret I am told is in the tendons of the bird's legs. They are so constructed that when the leg is bent at the knee, the bird's claws contract and grip like a steel trap. His claws will not let go until the knees are unbent. It is the bended knee that enables the bird to hold onto his perch so tightly and unwaveringly.

And this is true for us as Christian believers as well. We see it in Daniel. Surrounded by a pagan environment, tempted to compromise with evil, urged to weaken his grip on God, Daniel refused to let go. He held firm when others faltered because he was a man of prayer. He knew the power of the bended knee.

We hold firmly to God in prayer, assured that He holds tightly to us. There are so many wonderful words in Scripture concerning prayer. Let me leave you with two verses. "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" (James 5:16b). Take "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:17b-18).

Praying God's powerful working in and among us, Pastor Dennis



In this issue:

Page 1

Pastor's
Pen

Page 2

Articles
Newsletter
/ Bulletin
Deadlines &
Notes
Database
Changes
Contact
info,

Page 3

Mission
Opportunities,
Notes,
Announcements
Birthdays &
Anniversaries

Page 5

Weekly
Assignments &
Monthly Calendar

Page 5

Prayer Concerns



Keep in Touch!

Margie Gonzalez, 334.692.4131
162 Jones Road
Newton, Alabama 36352

Marie Nester
Charlottesville Health & Rehabilitation Center
505 West Rio Road
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Claire Parrish, 804.447.4141
Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center
1601 Broad Rock Road, Room 137
Richmond, VA 232246

COVID Guidelines Reminder

These continue to be interesting days in which to live. You may be growing weary of the COVID restrictions and concerns, but there is definitely some light at the end of the proverbial tunnel as the vaccination process has begun. We have done well in respecting the COVID guidelines at church, but just as a reminder, we need to be careful to maintain the 6-foot distance between one another when speaking and interacting, and in our seating in the sanctuary. And we need to wear face coverings in the church and when talking in the parking lot. If for a medical/health reason, you are not able to wear a face covering for long periods, you will still need to wear it when entering and exiting the building, and when moving about the building, and of course when singing. Per the recently amended executive order relative to face coverings, children 5 and older are now required to wear a face covering (The previous age was 10 and older.). Also, please make regular use of the sanitizer available throughout the building. What we have been doing has been working and we want to be vigilant to maintain these vital, required practices.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Do you want to put something in the bulletin or newsletter? Do you want to put something on our Website or in the Goshen News? If so, please submit the information as you want it to appear in the bulletin, newsletter or website, by the deadlines listed below to: communication@oakland-baptist.com email. For those of you without email access, please call or submit your written request to Sharon Kincaid.

Deadlines:

Bulletin - 12 noon of each Wednesday

Newsletter - 15th of each month

Website - 12 noon of each Thursday

Goshen Newsletter - 15th of each month

Have you moved??? Has your name changed? Do you have an update to a birthday or anniversary in your family? If you answered YES to any of these questions... Please notify any member of the Deacon Fellowship with any changes to your personal information or log into Church Trac and update your information.

Contact Information:

Pastor - Dennis Barton

Home: (804)244-5995

Cell: (804)997-9015

Email: drdrbarton@gmail.com

Deacon Fellowship:

Bill Groome: (804) 556-6482

Ricky Harper: (804) 514-6985 (cell)

Sandy Harper: (804) 514-3871 (cell)

Lonnie Kincaid: (804) 363-3288 (cell)

Kim Rosson: (804)928-2780 (cell)

Tom Sutterfield: (804)556-3836; (804)405-4046 (cell)

Ann Taylor: (804) 556-3519; (804) 339-6085 (cell)

Ron Taylor: (804) 556-3519; (804) 339-6067 (cell)

Tony Wade: (804) 773-0420 (cell)

Church Office: (804)556-3550

(please leave a message)

Located at: 2965 Oakland Church Rd, Gum Spring, VA

Mailing address: P O Box 99, Gum Spring, VA 23065

Web Page: www.Oakland-Baptist.com

Mission Opportunities, Notes & Announcements

WMU Happenings...

Thank you for your support. We have collected \$1,002 toward our goal of \$2,500 for Lottie Moon. We will continue to collect through January. All monies collected go directly to support our missionaries all over the world. Envelopes are available. See a Deacon. Prayerfully give.

Don and Pam Lynch's presentation after our service on December 6th was a wonderful time of learning about Belgium, their work there and how they are reaching the people with the gospel. If you would like to hear more about their work, you can request to be added to their newsletter at donpamlynch@gmail.com.

Youth Happenings...

The Youth Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, January 2nd, from 5:00 - 9:00 pm. Dinner will be provided with an activity to follow. Meet at the church at 5:00 pm. Questions? Call or text Stacey Harper @ 804-640-5893.

Happy Birthday!

Amanda Brooking	1/03
David Hodges	1/03
Karen Nicely	1/03
Adam Alford	1/05
Stewart Hicks	1/05
Ricky Harper	1/10
Trisha Wise	1/11
Nancy Walton	1/14
Katherine Murphy	1/15
Amy Gordon	1/16
Charles Atkins	1/17
Jenni Booth	1/18
Brenda Dodson	1/18
Liz Alford	1/19
Mabel Pleasants	1/19
Frank Smith	1/22
Jessica Osborne	1/22
Hallie Hicks	1/23
Edie Varnier	1/23
Peter Carrasco	1/28
Patricia Gammon	1/29
Jennifer Parkerson	1/29
Josie Summitt	1/29
Mike Dillon	1/30
McKynzie Kincaid	1/30

Happy Anniversary!

Dan & Carol Summitt	1/01
Stewart & Hallie Hicks	1/23
Tony & Kathy Wade	1/27

A Prayer for Hope After A Hard Year

God, Thank you for helping us to make it through this difficult year. Thank you that you've carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through the flames of trials, and through the pain of hard losses. We are constantly aware of how much we need you, your grace, your strength, your power working through even the toughest days.

Help us to keep our focus first on you this season. Please forgive us for giving too much time and attention to other things, for looking to other people before coming to you first. Help us to reflect again, on what Christmas is really all about. Thank you that you came to give new life, peace, hope, and joy. Thank you that your power is made perfect in our weakness.

Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. For you never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful Presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is towards us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favor as with a shield, and we are safe in your care.

We choose to press in close to you today, and keep you first in our hearts and lives. Without you we would surely fail, but with you, there is great hope. Thank you for your healing power, thank you for bringing us into this new season up ahead. We look forward to all that You still have in store. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS - January 2021

Date	Deacon
03	Ann Taylor
10	Ron Taylor
17	Sandy Harper
24	Kim Rosson
31	Bill Groome



					<u>1</u> 	<u>2</u> 5 – 9 pm Youth Christmas Party
<u>3</u> 9:45 am – Sunday School 11 am – Worship 12:30 pm – Deacon’s Meeting	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> 6 pm – Fellowship Meal 7 pm – Bible Study & Youth	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u> 9:45 am – Sunday School 11 am – Worship	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> 6 pm – Fellowship Meal 7 pm – Quarterly Business Meeting	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> 9:45 am – Sunday School 11 am – Worship Service 12:30 pm – WOM Meeting	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> 6 pm – Fellowship Meal 7 pm – Bible Study & Youth	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> 9:45 am – Sunday School 11 am – Worship	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> 6 pm – Fellowship Meal 7 pm – Bible Study & Youth	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>31</u> 8:00 am – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:45 am – Sunday School 11 am – Baptist Men’s Day						

The Acorn

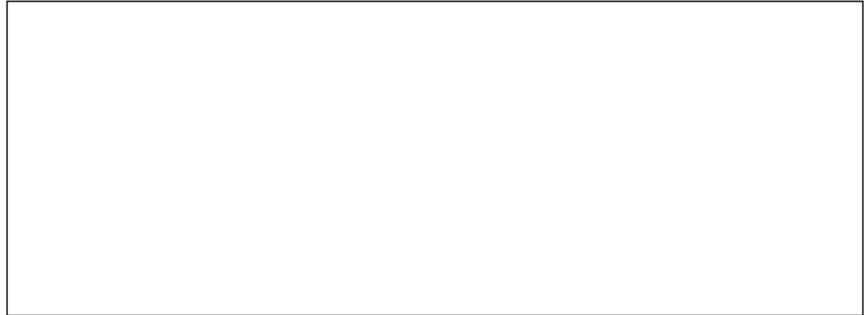
P.O. Box 99

Gum Spring, VA 23065

Church Office: 804-556-3550

Web Address:

www.Oakland-Baptist.com



Remembered in our hearts & prayers:

Updated Prayer Request:

Mary Ann Ballou
David Buchanan
Darrell Copeland
Pam Childress
Ron Clarke
Patti Cox
Kevin Driver's father
Elaine Gammon
Mary Catherine Gammon
Ronald Griffith
Judy Gunter
Stacey Harpster
Tom Harrison
Crystal Hicks & Kayley
Rod Holder
Hassel Kegley
Debbie Kibler
Phyllis Langley
Jim Limneos
Bill Morgan
Jimmy Nester
Marie Nester
Louise Parrish
Becky Partin
Sandi Pattison
Gerald Pleasants

Updated Prayer Request Cont'd:

Jane & Wayne Rapp
Riley Saunders
Rachel Smith
Leah & Zack Stiles
Joe White
James Williams
Jim Winburn
Bill Zimmerman

Continue to pray for the following:

Betty Fields
Warren Hicks
Jane Morgan Jones
Sharon Kincaid
Wayne Proffitt
Jerri Sherrill
Betty Jane Smith
Alma Walton
Billy Walton
Preston & Betsy Young
Our Pastor & Church
Our Country

Remembered in Our Thoughts & Prayers the Family of:

Michael Biener
Chris Ferguson
Sandy Lux
Margaret Rosson
Jean Ann Wall

Our Nursing Home Members;
see "Keep in Touch" section.

Remember our Servicemen & Their Families:

Gabe Edwards, Stateside

The prayer concern is completely revised monthly through mentioned prayer concerns, website submissions, email (communication@oakland-baptist.com) or by contacting Sharon Kincaid by the 15th of each month.