THE ACORN JANUARY 2026

Oakland BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

Happy 2026! It's going to be a good year! There may be some difficulties, but as God says in Jeremiah 29:11, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" Furthermore, "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28).

We are making some changes that should be for the better. Instead of Sunday night services, on Wednesday nights we will have choir practice at 5:00 p.m., our fellowship meal at 6:00 p.m., Prayer Meeting at 6:45 p.m. and Bible Study at 7:15 p.m. I highly encourage you to participate, especially to pray together. In order to be the church we must be, we must call out to the God of our church. There is power in praying together. I also ask that you regularly pray for us volunteers as we lead the Good News Club at Randolph Elementary School, which will be held for six Thursdays, beginning February 19. We want to reach as many children as possible.

Whatever our individual New Year's resolutions may be, may we all resolve to be more committed to fulfilling God's purposes for our lives and our church. It is discouraging to not know one's purpose, but thankfully God has revealed in His Word the reasons for which He created us. Life is more invigorating and meaningful when we know we're living according to what God wants us to be and to do.

I agree with Rick Warren, who wrote in his books, The Purpose-Driven Life and The Purpose-Driven Church, that the five major purposes for which we were created are to worship God, to fellowship with one another, to be and to make disciples, to share the Gospel and to minister to others. All purposes fall into one or more of those categories. All of my studies in the Bible support this truth. Allow me to share some Scriptures that speak to these purposes.

1. **Worship.** Mark 12:30, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Psalm 29:2, "worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness."
2. **Fellowship.** 1 John 1:7, "if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another." Hebrews 10:25, "Let us not give up meeting together."
3. **Discipleship.** Mark 8:34, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 28:19, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations."

(continued on page 2)

TABLE OF CONTENTS & REFERENCE INFO

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PG
Pastor's Pen	1
Upcoming Events	2
Mission Opportunities	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Weekly Deacons	3
The Good News Club	3
Monthly Calendar	4
Prayer Concerns	5

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Send information for the bulletin, newsletter, website or Goshen News to:
communication@oakland-baptist.com

Deadlines:
Bulletin – Noon on Thursday
Newsletter, Website, Goshen – 15th

For updates to personal information please notify any member of the Deacon Fellowship or log into ChurchTrac (link on church website) and update your information.

Contact Information:
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Office Hours: Tues-Fri 10am – 2pm

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Vice Chair: Tom Sutterfield: (804) 405-4046
Bill Groome: (804) 556-6482
Ricky Harper: (804) 514-6985
Sandy Harper: (804) 514-3871
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Church Office: (804) 556-3550

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Gum Spring, VA 23065
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P.O. Box 99, Gum Spring, VA 23065
Website: www.Oakland-Baptist.com

4. Evangelism. 1 Peter 3:15, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” Philemon 6, “I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith.”
5. Ministry. Mark 12:31, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Galatians 5:13, “serve one another in love.”

Sometimes we may not know specifically what God has called us to do, but we do know His major purposes for us. As we are obedient to what we already know, God reveals more specifics to us. Whatever the specifics may be, God plans to glorify Himself through us and to use us to impact for good everyone around us. What an honor and a privilege to be included in His plans to enlarge His kingdom! May 2026 be a year in which we see many manifestations of His plans and of His power! May we continually see God in a new and greater way!

In Christ,

Pastor Mark

UPCOMING EVENTS:

New Time!	**Note the new schedule on Wednesday Nights!** Choir practice at 5pm; Supper from 6-6:45pm; Prayer Meeting from 6:45-7:15pm and Group Bible Study at 7:15-8pm. The Prayer Meeting has moved from Sunday to Wednesday.
January 14	**Quarterly Business Meeting** - 7:00pm
January 15	**Seniors Meeting** – Oakland Baptist Church – 11:00am
January 18	**Women on Mission** – 12:00pm
January 21	**Mt. Gilead Food Pantry** packing day – 9:15am
January 25	**Baptist Men’s Sunday –** 11am
February 7	**Brunswick Stew Fundraiser for Armenia Mission Trip** – 12pm – 2pm
Starting Feb 19	**Good News Club**

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES: TOGETHER – SERVING OTHERS – MEETING NEEDS – CHANGING LIVES

YOU HAVE NOT LIVED TODAY UNTIL YOU HAVE DONE SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN NEVER REPAY YOU. JOHN BUNYAN

Mt. Gilead Food Pantry - Please continue to support this joint ministry program with your donations of non-perishable food items, plastic grocery bags (white, blue, gray, yellow or brown).
THIS MONTH’S EMPHASIS: Soup, stew, chili, canned pasta, spaghetti sauce, crackers. Drop off box located in the main hallway.

Glasses for Guatemala – We are collecting prescription eyewear, new and/or gently used reading glasses and eyeglass cases/holders for a missionary in serving in Guatamala. Collection box in the Seekers Sunday School classroom.

Hope for Appalachia - Hope Box Item Collection
THIS MONTH WE ARE COLLECTING: Sterilite 6 quart plastic shoeboxes
Collection box located on the table next to the church office.

Goshen Mission Action Project
Baby Bottle Project – collecting change, cash or checks to help support the crisis pregnancy ministry at the Paul Stefan Home in Orange, VA.
Special collection containers will be available in each Sunday School classroom and in the vestibule.

See the Goshen Monthly newsletter, “The Goshen News” for additional ministry needs.

AND THIS COMMANDMENT HAVE WE FROM HIM, THAT HE WHO LOVETH GOD LOVE HIS BROTHER ALSO. 1 JOHN 4:21

Let's Celebrate!

BIRTHDAYS

Karen Nicely	Jan 3
David Hodges	Jan 3
Amanda Brooking	Jan 3
Adam Alford	Jan 5
Stewart Hicks	Jan 5
Ricky Harper	Jan 10
Trisha Wise	Jan 11
Nancy Walton	Jan 14
Katherine Murphy	Jan 15
Amy Gordon	Jan 16
Charles Atkins	Jan 17
Brenda Dodson-Nester	Jan 18
Frank Erdt	Jan 19
Mabel Pleasants	Jan 19
Liz Alford	Jan 19
Jessica Osborne	Jan 22
Frank Smith	Jan 22
Hallie Hicks	Jan 23
Mark Davis	Jan 25
Peter Carrasco	Jan 28
Patricia Gammon	Jan 29
Jennifer Parkerson	Jan 29
Josephine Summitt	Jan 29
Michael Dillon	Jan 30
McKynzie Kincaid	Jan 30

ANNIVERSARIES

Summitt, Daniel & Carol	Jan 01
Hicks, Stewart & Hallie	Jan 23
Wade, Tony & Kathy	Jan 27

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

Frank Smith	Jan 4
Tom Sutterfield	Jan 11
Ricky Harper	Jan 18
Ann Taylor	Jan 25

STAY INFORMED!

In addition to the monthly newsletter, you can get up-to-date information on our website, Facebook and Instagram – Follow Us!

Website: www.Oakland-Baptist.com
Facebook: OBCGumSpringVA
Instagram: oaklandbaptistgumspring

WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS CLUB?

Begining February 16 for six weeks, Oakland will be conducting a Good News Club at Randolph Elementary School on Thursdays at 2:30pm

A Good News Club meets kids right where they are in schools (yes, schools!), community centers, churches, and neighborhood homes, teachers who are screened, trained, and equipped lead action-packed Good News Clubs every week, delivering the timeless truths of the Bible in exciting, engaging ways. Children learn the Gospel, and many come to know Jesus as their Savior.

What is taught in Good News Club?
Each week an exciting Bible lesson using colorful materials from Child Evangelism Fellowship is presented. This action-packed time also includes songs, Scripture memory, a missions story and review games or other activities focused on the lesson's theme.

Each club includes a clear presentation of the Gospel and an opportunity for children to trust the Lord Jesus as Savior. Every club also includes strong discipleship training to build character and strengthen moral and spiritual growth. All children are encouraged to attend a local church.

- There are **84,244** Good News Clubs worldwide!
- Children reached: over **4.4 million**!
- Teachers trained: over **577,000**!

JANUARY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 **Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** *8:00 am – 9:30 am* **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am*	29	30	Dec 31 **New Year's Eve**	1 **New Year's Day**	2	3
4 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **The Lord's Supper** *11:00 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am* **Deacon's Meeting** *12:30 pm*	5	6	7 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Wednesday Night Supper** *6:00 pm – 6:45 pm* **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm* **Group Bible Study** *7:15 pm – 8:00 pm*	8	9	10
11 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am* **Women on Mission** *12:30 pm*	12	13	14 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Wednesday Night Supper** *6:00 pm – 6:45 pm* **Quarterly Business Meeting** *7:00 pm – 8:00 pm*	15 **Seniors Luncheon** *11:00 am*	16	17 **Mission Stitchers** *9:00 am – 2:00 pm*
18 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am* **Women on Mission** *12:00 pm*	19	20	21 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Wednesday Night Supper** *6:00 pm – 6:45 pm* **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm* **Group Bible Study** *7:15 pm – 8:00 pm*	22	23	24
25 **Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** *8:00 am – 9:30 am* **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Baptist Men's Sunday** *11:00 am – 12:00 pm*	26	27	28 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Wednesday Night Supper** *6:00 pm – 6:45 pm* **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm* **Group Bible Study** *7:15 pm – 8:00 pm*	29	30	31

MEMORY SCRIPTURE:

Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Romans 8:28, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him".

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Tyler Adams
Lesley Alford
Steve Alford
Scott Andrews
David & Beth Biles
Dennis Braswell
Mike Carden
Charlie Childress
Debbie Crowder
Debbie Cutchin
Roy Edwards
Taylor Ferguson
Carolyn Ferris
Bobbie Jo Gardner
Frances Gillend
Daniel Gomez
April Grant
Paton Green
Robbie Green
Alex Guardino
Judy Gunter
Sandy Harper
Stewart Hicks
Jeannie Hyatt
Angela Lewis
Dot Lloyd
Joan Lloyd
Mary McCullough
Jessie Magana
Jackie Marden
Barbara Mayberry
John Nunn
Susan Parker
Jane Salo
Frank Smith
Steve Smith
Judy Trouch
Kathy Wade
Martin Walton
Anne Wells
Russ Whitehead
Gordon Whitehurst
Hannah Williams
Sandy Williams
Ernie Wootton

Continue to pray for:
Bobby Fields
Jane Morgan Jones
Riley Saunders
Betty Jane Smith
Leah Stiles
Billy Walton
Our Pastor & Church
Our Country
The Holy Land
Outreach Project
Pianist for Oakland

Remember our Servicemen & their families:
Nathan Alford, Stateside
Gabe Edwards, Stateside

Please email any additions or changes to communication@oakland-baptist.com by the 15th of each month to be included in our Sunday bulletin

The Acorn

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Oakland
BAPTIST CHURCH