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## PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

What a wonderful 2023 Christmas celebration at Oakland Baptist Church! From Breakfast with Santa, to the Hanging of the Green, the Christmas Cantata, and the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, there was a keen sense of the Lord's presence, sweet fellowship among believers, and a lot of praise going up to the Lord! It is a wonderful thing to be reminded in such powerful ways of the greatest gift of all . . . Jesus!

No surprise that Janey and I have at heart the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. It was so very important in facilitating our work during all those years on the Mission field. God is so gracious in allowing us as a church, through this offering, to have a part in taking the gospel literally to the ends of the earth. If you have not already given, please seek the Lord in doing so. If you have already given, the Lord May lead you to do more. I would love for us to exceed our goal, to the glory of the Lord!

I encourage you to pray daily for the pastor search committee as they seek the Lord's face and His direction . . . that He would give them wisdom, discernment, perseverance, and patience. Just as a reminder, the members of the committee are Denise Brooking (chairperson), Ricky Harper, Ann Taylor, Frank Smith, and Tom Sutterfield.

Also, you will want to lift up John Miller as he assumes the responsibility of interim pastor, beginning January 01 . . . that God would work through him to provide good leadership and rich spiritual nourishment.

This will be my last article for The Acorn. As I sign off (!), I want you to know I count it a privilege to have served the Lord as your pastor at Oakland. It was God's grace that led us together. And He has been faithful as we have walked together through high moments, through times of grief, through the COVID shutdown, and the subsequent protocols put in place, and so many other experiences. In the midst of it all, I have counted it a great responsibility and joy to proclaim God's Word in the Sunday morning services and the Wednesday evening Bible studies. I know this has been a time of personal spiritual growth for me. I pray it has been for you as well.

A portion of the text of my final message on December 31 is found in Ephesians 1:15-19a.

"Because . . . of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe."

This Scripture accurately captures both my thoughts and my prayer for you. I pray our precious Lord's rich blessings on you as you move ahead in this next chapter of faithful service and ministry for Oakland Baptist Church. He has great things in store!

*Pastor Dennis*



## REFERENCE INFORMATION

For information to be included in the bulletin, newsletter, website or Goshen News, please submit the information as you want it to appear by the deadlines listed below to:

[communication@oakland-baptist.com](mailto:communication@oakland-baptist.com)

### Deadlines:

Bulletin – 12 noon of each Thursday

Newsletter or Website – 15th of each month

Goshen Newsletter – 15th of each month

If you have updates to your personal information including address or phone change, please notify any member of the Deacon Fellowship or log into ChurchTrac (link on church website) and update your information.

### Contact Information:

Interim Pastor: John Miller

Cell: (540) 229-5366

Email: [jtsre@yahoo.com](mailto:jtsre@yahoo.com)

### Deacon Fellowship:

Chair: Ricky Harper: (804) 514-6985 (c)

Vice Chair: Ann Taylor: (804) 556-3519;  
(804) 339-6085 (c)

Lesley Alford: (804) 512-3854 (c)

Bill Groome: (804) 556-6482 (c)

Pat Groome: (804) 908-3276 (c)

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

Frank Smith: (804) 556-4746, (804) 652-9923 (c)

Church Office: (804) 556-3550

*(please leave a message)*

### Located at:

2965 Oakland Church Rd, Gum Spring, VA 23065

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

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

## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 3

**Wednesday Night Supper & Group Bible Study** begins

again after the holiday break.

Join us at 6:00 pm for a delicious fellowship meal and 7:00 pm for group Bible Study.



January 10

7:00pm – Our **Quarterly Business Meeting** will be held to discuss year end financials, committee reports and other agenda items. If you have anything you would like to put on the agenda, please see Ricky Harper.

January 18

**Seniors Luncheon** – Meet at Oakland Baptist Church at 11:00 am for a time of fellowship and lunch.

January 20

**Mission Stitchers** meet at Goshen Baptist Association from 9:00am – 2:00pm.



January 28

**Baptist Men's Day** – Join us for this special service as the men of our church lead worship time.

January 28

**Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** – 8:00 am

## Time for Celebration!

### BIRTHDAYS

Karen Nicely	Jan 3
Amanda Brooking	Jan 3
David Hodges	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
Jenny Booth	Jan 18
Liz Alford	Jan 19
Mabel Pleasants	Jan 19
Frank Erdt	Jan 19
Jessica Osborne	Jan 22
Frank Smith	Jan 22
Hallie Hicks	Jan 23
Peter Carrasco	Jan 28
Jennifer Parkerson	Jan 29
Josephine Summitt	Jan 29
Patricia Gammon	Jan 29
McKynzie Kincaid	Jan 30
Mike Dillon	Jan 30

### ANNIVERSARIES

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



### DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

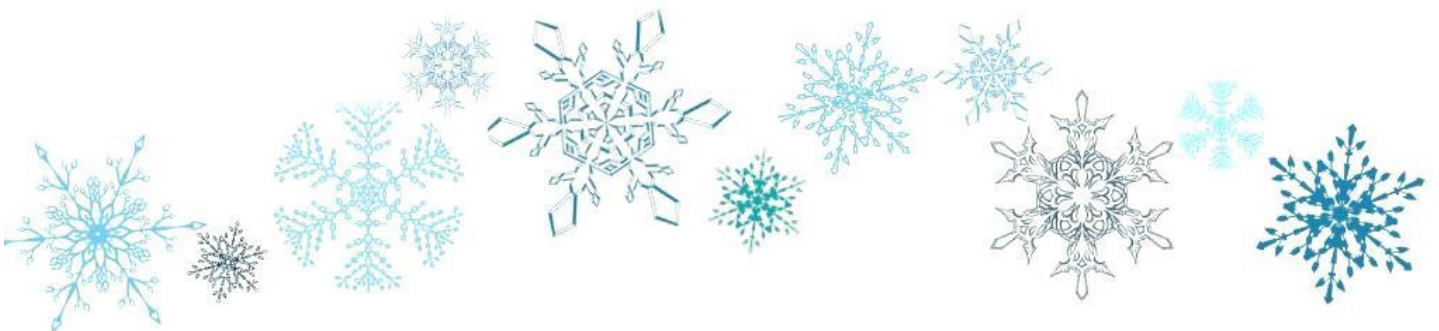
Pat Groome	Jan 7
Ricky Harper	Jan 14
Lesley Alford	Jan 21
Sandy Harper	Jan 28

# January

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 31 <b>New Year's Eve</b> <b>Breakfast with the Bartons</b> <i>8:00 am – 9:30 am</i> <b>Sunday School</b> <i>9:45 am – 10:45 am</i> <b>Worship Service</b> <i>11:00 am</i> <b>Goochland Cares Team</b> <i>1:30 pm</i>	1 <b>New Year's Day</b>	2	3	4	5	6
7 <b>Sunday School</b> <i>9:45 am – 10:45 am</i> <b>The Lord's Supper</b> <i>11:00 am</i> <b>Worship Service</b> <i>11:00 am</i>	8	9	10 <b>Quarterly Business Meeting</b> <i>7:00 pm – 8:00 pm</i>	11	12	13
14 <b>Sunday School</b> <i>9:45 am – 10:45 am</i> <b>Worship Service</b> <i>11:00 am</i>	15	16	17	18 <b>Seniors Luncheon</b> <i>11:00 am</i>	19	20 <b>Mission Stitches</b> <i>9:00 am – 2:00 pm</i>
21 <b>Sunday School</b> <i>9:45 am – 10:45 am</i> <b>Worship Service</b> <i>11:00 am</i> <b>WOM Meeting</b> <i>12:30 pm</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <b>Men &amp; Women's Prayer Breakfast</b> <i>8:00 am – 9:30 am</i> <b>Sunday School</b> <i>9:45 am – 10:45 am</i> <b>Baptist Men's Sunday</b> <i>11:00 am – 12:00 pm</i>	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3

## Jeremiah 29:11

<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.



# The Acorn

**P.O. Box 99  
Gum Spring, VA 23065**

**Church Office: 804-556-3550**

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



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

James Alford  
Matt Alford  
Scott Andrews  
Rebecca Baker  
Eddie Barnett  
Gene Barton  
Joseph Beach  
Pat Beach  
Abby Beyer  
Dennis Braswell  
Jeff Brooks  
Kim Bryant  
Mike Carden  
Joyce Collins  
Debbie Crowder  
Debbie Cutchin  
Olivia Dougherty  
Roy Edwards  
Taylor Ferguson  
Daniel Gomez  
April Grant  
Robbie Green  
Judy Gunter  
Jeannie Hyatt  
Lorraine Klein  
Josh Landesman  
Patty McLarty  
Jessie Magana  
Jackie Marden  
Barbara Mayberry

## Updated Prayer Request Cont'd:

Clyde & Elaine Meador  
John Nunn  
Wayne Rapp  
Jane Salo  
B.M. Seal  
Isaac Soderlund  
Frank Southall  
Bianca Stevenson  
Cherie Thomas  
Judy Trouch  
Evelyn Wade  
Larry & Cathy Wells  
Russ Whitehead  
Gordon Whitehurst  
Christian & Molly Zimmerman  
Ethan Zimmerman

## Continue to pray for the following:

Bobby & Betty Fields  
Jane Morgan Jones  
Riley Saunders  
Jeri Sherrill  
Betty Jane Smith  
Leah Stiles  
Billy Walton  
Our Pastor & Church  
Our Country  
The Holy Land  
Outreach into our Community

## **Remember the Families of:**

Sonny Hughes

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

Gabe Edwards,  
Stateside

**The prayer concern is  
completely revised monthly  
through mentioned prayer  
concerns. Please email any  
additions or changes to  
[communication@oakland-  
baptist.com](mailto:communication@oakland-baptist.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each  
month.**