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PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

Several years ago, two friends and I began doing canoe trips down the Maury River in Lexington. We were all Baptist ministers and the trips were a good way to get away from work, stress, and people in general. We scheduled one trip for the following week and then it began to rain. It rained for five straight days but on the day before our trip, the sky cleared, the sun shone brightly and we, too cocky for our own good, decided to take on the river with two of us in a canoe and the third in his kayak.

Things progressed well at first even if all our landmarks were buried by six feet of water. But toward the end of the trip, I decided to take a short cut we had used often that passed between a small island and the river bank. In that short cut a small stream entered except on that day, that small stream had an additional six feet of rapidly moving water in it. The water hit our canoe and spun us backwards. I, in the rear, shoved my paddle deep into the water to spin us back around and managed to hit a rock the size of a Volkswagen beetle broadside bending our canoe into a nice "V" shape.

Since I felt hitting the rock with my friend's canoe was my fault I went into the water to push it free. It wouldn't budge. My canoe buddy then jumped in and the two of us tried and failed to free it. The third member of our group had missed us by now and came back and found us struggling without success to move the canoe against the weight of the water. Although he was dry and had not made the mistake, he jumped into the water himself and between the three of us we managed to push the canoe downstream.

I am often asked what Christianity is all about. This true story illustrates better than any sermon or book what I believe our faith is meant to be. When life happens, we need people around us who are willing to jump in the water with us. We don't need people to stand on the bank and criticize our decisions. We don't need reminded of the foolish choices we made or to assign blame. When we see another struggling we need to get in there and help. Questions of responsibility, guilt, and the rest can wait. When I was standing chest deep in the Maury River, my two brothers in Christ left their comfort zones and got wet with me. That not only is what friends do, it is what proves our brotherhood in the Lord.

Our faith is about jumping in to help without being asked or required to do so. I hope your faith gets you wet as you join in the lives of the people around you who desperately need you.

John



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

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

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

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 7

Goshen Spring Missions Celebration – 3:00pm at Mineral Baptist Church (51 Louisa Ave, Mineral).

- Jan Meeks speaks about her experiences on mission with Hope for Appalachia
- Josue Luckumchang will share about his ministry with the Latinos
- Tammy Wood will share a church planter update and video from Armenia
- Josh Bowen will share about his NASCAR ministry.

April 10

Quarterly Business Meeting – All members are encouraged to attend this regularly scheduled quarterly meeting. Please submit your agenda items to Ricky Harper.

April 12 – 27

Children's Consignment Sale Ministry Dates/Times:

- 4/12 Drop Off – 6:30–8:30pm
- 4/13 Drop Off – 9:00-10:00am
- 4/16 Consignor Early Shopping Night 6:30-8:30pm
- 4/18 & 19 Public Shopping Nights 6:30-8:30pm
- 4/20 & 27 Public Shopping & ½ price sale 9am-12pm

Please see Sandy Harper if you can help at the sale! This is a great time for fellowship and an opportunity to reach out to those in our community.

April 18

Seniors Luncheon – The seniors will meet at Gum Spring United Methodist Church beginning at 11am. 191 Cross County Road, Gum Spring 23065

April 20

Mission Stitches – Goshen Association 9:00am-2:00pm

April 22

Nominating Committee Meeting – 6pm

April 30

Goshen Spring Meeting; 2pm at Dogwood Baptist Church (5677 New Line Road, Gum Spring)

Ongoing

Hope for Appalachia Virginia – Hope Box Item Collection

Website: <https://hfavateam.com>

THIS MONTH WE ARE COLLECTING: Body wash (12oz) and shower puffs

Doctors Without Borders – The Seekers Sunday School class is collecting prescription and non-prescription bottles in for Doctors without Borders. No need to remove the labels.

Mt. Gilead Food Pantry is in need of plastic grocery/shopping bags and 12 count egg cartons. Please drop them off in the Food Pantry donation box. Personal hygiene products are greatly needed, too. Thank you for your support of this joint mission action project.



Focus on Missions

Support of Armenia Church Planters – Through the Goshen Baptist Association, Oakland supports three church planters in Armenia – Pastors Vardan, Svine and Avo by monetary donations each year for them to purchase items to help grow their churches. Goshen currently has a five-year partnership with the Armenia Baptist Association and is providing the opportunity to travel to Armenia to support these church planters in person – teaching vacation Bible School and working on construction projects. This year marks the second year of our partnership and after sending one member last summer, we are blessed to have TWO members returning this year! Please pray as they are putting together a team to return to Armenia on August 15. If you would like to be part of the team, you can reach out to communications@oakland-baptist.com.



THANK YOU TO OUR CLOTHES CLOSET MINISTRY TEAM SERVING
GOOCHLAND CARES
Free Clinic and Family Services

Goochland Cares – We have a team of church members that volunteer at the Goochland Clothes Closet several times a year. The team sorts through items that are identified to be pulled in order to make room for newly donated items. The service we provide allows the Goochland Clothes Closet team to efficiently continue stocking and providing for the community throughout the year.

Children’s Consignment Sale Ministry – This is a ministry that is near and dear to many of our church members. It’s not just a sale, it is an opportunity to provide like new items for children (clothes, toys, books, baby equipment, outdoor equipment, shoes, etc.) to our community that may not be affordable elsewhere. After the sale, donated items go to support those that are in need. The ministry team holds the sale twice a year – once in the Spring and once in the Fall.

Oakland Baptist Church
CHILDREN’S CONSIGNMENT MINISTRY



ALL SEASONS SALE

Thursday, 4/18 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Friday, 4/19 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Saturday, 4/20 & Saturday 4/27
9:00am – Noon – 1/2 price sale!
(all items marked discount will sell at 1/2 price)

We LOVE new consignors! For more information on how to consign, go to www.Oakland-Baptist.com and click on the Ministries link.

Oakland Baptist Church • 2065 Oakland Church Road • Gum Spring VA 23065
Follow us on Facebook!

Time for Celebration!

BIRTHDAYS

Harry Smith	April 2
Betty Stanley	April 4
Jeanette Klaty	April 4
Samantha Hicks	April 4
Tom Sutterfield	April 5
Vince Hutchinson	April 8
Jeni DeRusha	April 8
Donald Amick	April 9
Carol Summitt	April 14
Joan Lloyd	April 15
Gabby Traw	April 18
John Jones	April 23
April Grant	April 24
Russell Hicks	April 27
Kathy Alvis	April 29
Glenn Williams	April 29
Emily Hawk	April 30
Jenny Smith	April 30

ANNIVERSARIES

Angie & Reuben Justiniano	April 6
Loren & Betty Stanley	April 11
Gerald & Mabel Pleasants	April 13
Donnie & Louise Ware	April 18
Craig & Polly Kane	April 19
Mark & Denise Brooking	April 23
Glenn & Sandy Williams	April 25

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

Frank Smith	April 7
Pat Groome	April 14
Ricky Harper	April 21
Lesley Alford	April 28

April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 31 Easter Sunday Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 am Easter Breakfast 8:00 am Sunday School - Easter 8:45 am The Lord's Supper 10:00 am Easter Worship Service 10:00 am	1	2	3 Wednesday Night Supper 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Group Bible Study 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	4	5	6
7 Sunday School 9:45 am - 10:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am Goshen Spring Missions Celebration 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	8	9	10 Wednesday Night Supper 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Quarterly Business Meeting 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	11	12 Consignment Drop Off 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	13 Consignment Drop Off 9:00 am - 10:00 am Crochet Class 10:00 am
14 Sunday School 9:45 am - 10:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am Deacon's meeting 12:30 pm	15	16 Consignment - Early Shopper Night 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	17 Wednesday Night Supper 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Group Bible Study 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	18 Seniors Luncheon 11:00 am Consignment - Public Shopping Night 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	19 Consignment - Public Shopping Night 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	20 Mission Stitches 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Consignment - 1/2 Price Day! 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
21 Sunday School 9:45 am - 10:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am	22 Nominating Committee Meeting 6:00 pm	23	24 Wednesday Night Supper 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Group Bible Study 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	25	26	27 Consignment - 1/2 Price Day! 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
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 Goshen Annual Spring Meeting 2:00 pm	May 1 Wednesday Night Supper 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Group Bible Study 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	2	3	4 Consignment Pick Up 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

1 Peter 4:9

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. Fellowship is not just something that we try to fit into our Christian life after we get everything else together. No fellowship is important. Fellowship will challenge us, encourage us, help us stay accountable, and fellowship is showing obedience to God and his word.

The Acorn

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

Church Office: 804-556-3550

www.Oakland-Baptist.com



Remembered in our hearts & prayers:

James Alford
Matt Alford
Steve Alford
Scott Andrews
Rebecca Baker
Eddie Barnett
Joseph Beach
Pat Beach
Abby Beyer
Dennis Braswell
Kim Bryant
Mike Carden
Wanda Carden
Buck Clanton
Joyce Collins
Debbie Crowder
Debbie Cutchin
Olivia Dougherty
Kevin Driver
Mark Driver
Roy Edwards
Taylor Ferguson
Daniel Gomez
April Grant
Robbie Green
Judy Gunter
Stewart Hicks
Jeannie Hyatt
Lorraine Klein
Josh Landesman
Angela Lewis
Megan McClelland
Patty McLarty
Jessie Magana

Updated Prayer Request Cont'd:

Jackie Marden
Barbara Mayberry
John Nunn
Jane Salo
B.M. Seal
Isaac Soderlund
Bianca Stevenson
Cherie Thomas
Judy Trouch
Evelyn Wade
Alma Walton
Larry & Cathy Wells
Russ Whitehead
Gordon Whitehurst

Continue to pray for the following:

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

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 15th of each
month.**