THE ACORN APRIL 2026

Oakland BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

As you know, this past weekend we attended the funeral of my brother-in-law, David Biles. David was still relatively young, just sixty-seven years old. When he died his body was just a shell of its former self. It had been wracked by the disease known as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. The disease caused a steady decline of all his motor skills, eventually leading to the inability to even breathe. Finally, he slipped into a coma and passed away a few days later.

It was a good funeral. David's life was celebrated. A major part of his life was that he had the gift of evangelism. He took the same evangelism training course that Diane and I had taken, Evangelism Explosion. He had a talent for quickly getting to know a person, and very frequently shared the Gospel. Even while in the nursing home part of the V.A. Medical Center, while he was still able, he would get in his motorized wheelchair and share the Gospel with other patients. Because of the Gospel David knew that ALS didn't have the final word for his life. Both of the speakers' messages centered on the Gospel, the good news that all who trust in Jesus Christ have eternal life. David's spirit left his diseased-ridden body and went home to live eternally with the Lord.

Death has been conquered by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. While we should be celebrating His resurrection every day, we will especially celebrate it on Easter Sunday. Jesus put death to death. He placed a death sentence on death. Death was not God's intention. Why would the God of life create death? No, He created people to live forever. But when Adam and Eve sinned, they received the wages of sin, which is death. They died spiritually and would eventually die physically.

So, God put into motion His plan to conquer death. At just the right time in salvation history, Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross. Three days later God raised Jesus from the dead. The Jesus who promised eternal life for all who believe has founded His promise on the fact that He Himself is alive forevermore!

Believers still die physically, and it hurts to see them go. But God has eased the pain of physical death, referring to it as falling asleep. Psalm 116:15 says, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." It is an end of suffering and a beginning of spending eternity in the immediate presence of God.

Another reason that it was a good funeral was because, although there was grief, accompanying the grief was hope. Paul wrote about this in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. I won't quote the whole passage, but the basic message is that we have hope because Jesus died and rose again. When Jesus returns, the bodies of the dead in Him will be raised and ascended to Him, and we who are still alive will join them. Thus we will live with Him forever.

More good news. "The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body" (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). The bodies of the saints, once wracked and disfigured by disease and illness, will be transformed and surrounded and filled with the glory of God! And this is all possible because of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! Come, Lord Jesus!

In Christ, Pastor Mark

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:
Reverend Mark S. Davis
Cell: (540) 292-4668
Email: revmsdavis@yahoo.com
Office Hours: Tues-Fri 10am – 2pm

Deacon Fellowship:
Chair: Ron Taylor: (804) 339-6067
Vice Chair: Tom Sutterfield: (804) 405-4046
Bill Groome: (804) 556-6482
Ricky Harper: (804) 514-6985
Sandy Harper: (804) 514-3871
Frank Smith: (804) 624-0633
Ann Taylor: (804) 339-6085
Church Office: (804) 556-3550

2965 Oakland Church Rd
Gum Spring, VA 23065
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 99, Gum Spring, VA 23065
Website: www.Oakland-Baptist.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 5	**Easter Sunday – He has Risen!** (See modified schedule for Easter morning services Pg 3)
April 7	**Nominating Committee Meeting** – 6:00pm
April 8	**Quarterly Business Meeting** – 7:00pm
April 12	**Goshen Missions Celebration** - 3:00pm, Perkins Baptist Church Guest Speakers: Terry Graham & Tammy Wood
April 16	**Seniors Meeting/Luncheon** – Gum Spring United Methodist Church – 11:00am
April 17	**Consignment Drop Off** – 6:30-8:30pm
April 18	**Consignment Drop Off –** 9:00am-10:00am (final sort and quality control afterwards)
April 19	**Women on Mission** – 12:30pm
April 21	**Early Shop for Consignors –** 6:30-8:30pm
April 23, 24	**Consignment Ministry Sale – Public Sale** – 6:30-8:30pm
April 25	**Consignment Ministry Sale – ½ Price Saturday -** 9:00am – Noon
April 25	**Goshen Spring Picnic – Louisa Baptist Church** – 3:00pm-5:00pm

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

God has give us two hands; one to receive with and the other to give with. Reverend Billy Graham

Mt. Gilead Food Pantry - Please continue to support this joint ministry program with your donations of non-perishable food items, plastic grocery bags (all colors including white).
THIS MONTH'S EMPHASIS: Personal hygiene Items (shampoo, soap, body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.) and boxes of tissues. 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: Playdoh, stickers, jump ropes, small games and puzzles Collection box located on the table next to the church office.

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

Goshen Mission Action Project

- Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- Special Mission projects in Armenia
    - Commit to be a Prayer Partner for the 2026 Mission Teams
    - Financially support projects for the 2026 Mission Teams – (make your donations payable to the Goshen Baptist Association – memo: "ARMENIA PROJECTS")
    - Learn more about being part of the Goshen Mission Team

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35 (NIV)

Let's Celebrate!

BIRTHDAYS

Chris Powell	Apr 1
Harry Smith	Apr 2
Jeanette Klaty-McLean	Apr 4
Betty Stanley	Apr 4
Samantha Hicks	Apr 4
Tom Sutterfield	Apr 5
Jennifer DeRusha	Apr 8
Vincent Hutchinson	Apr 8
Donald Amick	Apr 9
Carol Summitt	Apr 14
Joan Lloyd	Apr 15
Gabriell Traw	Apr 18
John Jones	Apr 23
April Grant	Apr 24
Glenn Williams	Apr 29
Kathy Alvis	Apr 29
Jenny Smith	Apr 30
Emily Hawk	Apr 30

ANNIVERSARIES

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

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

Bill Groome	Apr 5
Frank Smith	Apr 12
Tom Sutterfield	Apr 19
Ricky Harper	Apr 26

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunrise Service:	7:30am
Easter Breakfast:	8:00am
Sunday School	8:45am
Worship Service	10:00am

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

Focus on Easter

As spring brings new life, we are reminded that Easter is the foundation of our hope as Christians.

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ—when death was defeated and eternal life was secured for all who believe. As 1 Corinthians 15:17 reminds us, without the resurrection, our faith would be empty—but Christ has been raised, and because He lives, we have victory.

The cross and the empty tomb tell one powerful story: Jesus paid the price for our sins, and God raised Him in victory, proving that sin and death do not have the final word.

Easter reminds us that through Christ, we are made new—restored to God and filled with lasting hope.

In a world full of uncertainty, Easter shines as a message of unshakable hope. May we live in the power of the risen Savior each day. He is risen - He is risen indeed!

APRIL CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 **Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** *8:00 am – 9:30 am* **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am*	30	Mar 31	1 **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*	2	3	4
5 **Easter Sunday** **Easter Sunrise Service** *7:30 am* **Easter Breakfast** *8:00 am* **Sunday School – Easter** *8:45 am* **Easter Worship Service** *10:00 am*	6	7 **Nominating Committee Meeting** *6:00 pm*	8 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm* **Wednesday Night Supper** *6:00 pm – 6:45 pm* **Prayer Meeting** *6:45 pm* **Quarterly Business Meeting** *7:15 pm – 8:00 pm*	9	10	11
12 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am* **Deacon's meeting** *12:30 pm* **Goshen Mission Celebration** *3:00 pm*	13	14	15 **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*	16 **Seniors Luncheon** *11:00 am*	17 **Consignment Drop Off** *6:30 pm – 8:30 pm*	18 **Mission Stitchers** *9:00 am – 2:00 pm* **Consignment Drop Off** *9:00 am – 10:00 am*
19 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am* **Women on Mission** *12:30 pm*	20	21 **Consignment – Early Shopper night** *6:30 pm – 8:30 pm*	22 **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*	23 **Consignment – public shopping** *6:30 pm – 8:30 pm*	24 **Consignment – public shopping** *6:30 pm – 8:30 pm*	25 **Consignment – 1/2 Price Sale** *9:00 am – 12:00 pm* **Goshen Spring Picnic** *3:00 pm – 6:00 pm*
26 **Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** *8:00 am – 9:30 am* **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am*	27	28	29 **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*	30	May 1	2 **Consignment – 1/2 price sale** *9:00 am – 12:00 pm*

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

Matthew 28:6

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Tyler Adams
Lesley Alford
Steve Alford
Scott Andrews
The Family of David Biles
Dennis Braswell
Mike Carden
Pedro Carrasco
Charlie Childress
Ronnie & Virginia Cook
Debbie Crowder
Debbie Cutchin
Roy Edwards
Taylor Ferguson
Carolyn Ferris
Frances Gillend
Jorge Gomez & family
April Grant
Robbie Green
Alex Guardino
Judy Gunter
Denise Harper
Hallie Hicks
Stewart Hicks

Jeannie Hyatt
Angela Lewis
Dot Lloyd
Joan Lloyd
Harry McClurg
Mary McCullough
Jessie Magana
Barbara Mayberry
Hazel Morgan
John Nunn
Susan Parker
Sam Pleasants
Casey Ralston
Jane Salo
Steve Smith
Judy Trouch
Kathy Wade
Martin Walton
Anne Wells
Gordon Whitehurst
Sandy Williams
Ernie Wootton

Continue to pray for:
Bobby Fields
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
Gabe Edwards

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

P.O. Box 99
Gum Spring, VA 23065

Church Office: 804-556-3550

www.Oakland-Baptist.com

Oakland
BAPTIST CHURCH