THE ACORN SEPTEMBER 2026

Oakland BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

Most of us have a saying, a Scripture, a proverb or other truth that has really impacted us and guides how we live our lives. Mine is a saying that is often attributed to the holocaust survivor Victor Frankl, and is often cited by Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose-Driven Church* and *The Purpose-Driven Life*. The saying is something like this: "You can't always control what happens to you, but you can control your response to what happens to you."

Many things happen to us, good and bad, that just come out of the blue. They are totally unexpected, and nothing we did brought them on or nothing we could have done would have prevented them. We certainly want more of the good to happen, and find it easier to respond to the good in a positive way. Although it's harder to respond to the bad in the way God wants, we are, nevertheless, responsible for doing so. After all, Jesus said, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Luke 6:27-28). Romans 12:21 says, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

How we choose to respond when bad things happen will influence the course of our lives. If we choose to use the bad as an excuse to not do the good that we should do, if we choose to remain angry and bitter, if we choose to blame God, our perspectives will become more narrow. It will become harder to see the good that God is doing. Furthermore, our hearts will harden. The pain in them will fester and become like a cancer. And we will more likely respond to the next bad thing in the same way. We become trapped in the mentality of victimhood.

God didn't create us to be victims, He created us to be overcomers. "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37). "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57). We become overcomers by taking responsibility for our actions, words, thoughts and emotions and responding to the bad in a godly way. We forgive, we bless, we do good, we pray and we love. Knowing and doing the truth sets us free. It opens us up to the healing love and grace of God.

Part of being an overcomer is remembering to thank God, even rejoice, when things are difficult. Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 to "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. James

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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

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
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(Pastor's Pen – continued)

wrote in his epistle, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds" (1:2). God uses the trials to make our faith in Him greater and to make our characters stronger. Through choosing to respond as God wants, he shows us that we really can trust Him, that He can handle any problem we have. Our characters become sturdier, making it easier to do the right thing the next time we face a difficulty. These are definitely reasons to give thanks and rejoice!

In addition to strengthening our faith and character, God can use difficulties to bring many other blessings. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). For instance, Joseph, son of Jacob, went through all kinds of terrible trials. While I don't believe that God caused Joseph's brothers and Potiphar's wife to betray him, nor the cupbearer to forget him for two years, nevertheless God worked through the events to exalt Joseph so that his family, the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel, would be reconciled and rescued from famine. Even in the bad God works for the good. The next time something bad happens, ask God to open your eyes so you can see the good He is doing.

The great thing about having a choice as to how we respond to our circumstances is that we have the freedom to be overcomers. Those who are stuck in a victim mentality are enslaved to the excuses they make and to their bitterness and resentment. Those who choose to forgive, to bless, to do good, to pray and to love are truly free, regardless of their circumstances. In writing this I don't mean to invalidate difficult circumstances; some can be very hard, indeed. But our God is greater than the worst that can happen to us. He is even able to transform us so that we can be His instruments in bringing good from bad through our faith, obedience and service.

So, the next time you are faced with something lousy, choose to respond in a godly way. Just having that kind of attitude will help! "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

In Christ, Pastor Mark

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept 2	Choir Practice – 5:00pm; Prayer Meeting (Summer) - 6:00pm
Sept 3	The Good News Club – Randolph Elementary School – 2:30pm
Sept 7	Labor Day
Sept 9	**Wednesday Night Activities Resume!** Choir Practice 5pm; Supper 6pm; Prayer Meeting 6:45pm; Group Bible Study 7pm
Sept 10	The Good News Club – Randolph Elementary School – 2:30pm
Sept 13-20	**Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions & Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions** – Help us reach our $1,200 Goal
Sept 16	Choir Practice 5pm; Supper 6pm; Prayer Meeting 6:45pm; Group Bible Study 7pm
Sept 17	Seniors Meeting/Luncheon – Oakland Baptist – 11am
Sept 17	The Good News Club – Randolph Elementary School – 2:30pm
Sept 19	Mission Stitchers – Goshen Association office – 9am-2pm
Sept 20	Women on Mission – 12:30pm
Sept 23	Choir Practice 5pm; Supper 6pm; Prayer Meeting 6:45pm; Group Bible Study 7pm
Sept 24	The Good News Club – Randolph Elementary School – 2:30pm
Sept 25	Fall Consignment Drop Off – 6:30-8:30pm
Sept 26	Fall Consignment Drop Off – 9-10am
Sept 27	Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast – 8am
Sept 29	Fall Consignment – Consignor Shopping Night – 6:30-8:30pm
Sept 30	Choir Practice 5pm; Supper 6pm; Prayer Meeting 6:45pm; Group Bible Study 7pm

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

To have made even one person's life a little better, that is to succeed. Henry David Thoreau

Mt. Gilead Food Pantry - Please continue to support this joint ministry program with your donations of non-perishable food items. There is an **URGENT** need for plastic grocery bags – all colors. **THIS MONTH'S EMPHASIS:** Cereal, soup, crackers, canned peas, detergent {dish and laundry}

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: Warm Winter Clothing Drive:** -New winter hats, gloves, scarves {children and adult}; -Warm winter socks {new-all sizes-children and adult}; -New and/or gently used winter coats {all sizes}; -New sleeping bags and new winter blankets {lap size, twin or queen} Collection box located next to the church office.

Goshen Mission Action Project
Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions; Make checks payable to Oakland Baptist Church with "Alma Hunt Offering" in the memo section

Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16

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

Let's Celebrate!

BIRTHDAYS

Katie Hawk	Sep 1
Debbie Murphy	Sep 4
Janet Hawk	Sep 5
Brian Hodges	Sep 9
Weseley Atkinson	Sep 10
Theresa Miles	Sep 13
Lori Caldwell	Sep 14
Anne Wells	Sep 15
A.J. Nester	Sep 15
Tony Gordon	Sep 15
Dabney Barber	Sep 15
Robert Atkinson	Sep 16
Keith Wiltshire	Sep 18
Teresa Groome	Sep 19
Craig Jones	Sep 20
Stuart Richie	Sep 22
Donald Bowmaster	Sep 23
Eli Jones	Sep 25
Martin Walton III	Sep 26
Stacey Greene	Sep 28
Lorraine Majka	Sep 29

ANNIVERSARIES

John & Dabney Barber	Sep 6
Dana & Nancy Franklin	Sep 27

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

Frank Smith	Sep 6
Tom Sutterfield	Sep 13
Ricky Harper	Sep 20
Ann Taylor	Sep 27

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

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 am – 9:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am – 10:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am Goochland Cares Team 1:30 pm	Aug 31	1	2 Choir Practice 5:00 pm Prayer Meeting (Summer) 6:00 pm	3 Good News Club 2:30 pm	4	5
6 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	7 Labor Day	8	9 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	10 Good News Club 2:30 pm	11	12
13 Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions Sunday School 9:45 am – 10:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am	14 Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions	15 Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions	16 Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions 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	17 Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions Seniors Luncheon 11:00 am Good News Club 2:30 pm	18 Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions	19 Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions Mission Stitchers 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
20 Week of Prayer for Virginia Missions Sunday School 9:45 am – 10:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am Women on Mission 12:30 pm	21	22	23 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	24 Good News Club 2:30 pm	25 Fall Consignment Drop Off 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	26 Fall Consignment Drop off 9:00 am – 10:00 am
27 Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 am – 9:30 am Sunday School 9:45 am – 10:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am	28	29 Fall Consignment – Early Shopper Night 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	30 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	Oct 1 Fall Consignment – Public Shopping Night 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	2 Fall Consignment – Public Shopping Night 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	3 Fall Consignment – 1/2 Price Day! 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Scripture:

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Luke 6:27-28)

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Tyler Adams
Steve Alford
Scott Andrews
Beth Biles
Dennis Braswell
Charlie Childress
Ronnie & Virginia Cook
Debbie Crowder
Debbie Cutchin
The Family of Gabe Edwards
Roy Edwards
Taylor Ferguson
Carolyn Ferris
Frances Gillend
April Grant
Robbie Green
Alex Guardino
Judy Gunter
Hallie Hicks
Stewart Hicks
Jeannie Hyatt
Angela Lewis
Joan Lloyd
Harry McClurg
Mary McCullough
Jessie Magana
Barbara Mayberry
Hazel Morgan
John Nunn
Susan Parker
Mabel Pleasants
Sam Pleasants
Casey Ralston
Jane Salo
David & Erin Shafferman
Steve Smith
Elaine Stoll
Judy Trouch
Kathy Wade
Tony Wade
Martin Walton
Gordon Whitehurst
Glenn & 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

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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