THE ACORN NOVEMBER 2026

Oakland BAPTIST CHURCH

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Church Family,

In last month's article I mentioned that I would be going to my high school class reunion and would be visiting family. This being the month of Thanksgiving, I want to tell you things about the trip for which I'm thankful. First of all, I'm thankful to the deacons for giving me the time off. Now I'll tell you about the trip in reverse order.

Saturday night we had the reunion. I was a little disappointed because only six people from my class of '83 showed up. Only three from the class of '85 came; the majority were from the class of '84, with whom the reunion idea had started. But I knew a lot of people anyway, and had a good time.

I'm thankful that one of my classmates, who gave me a lot of verbal abuse in high school, has through the years matured, and, with each reunion, has been more and more friendly to me. I came to understand the importance decades ago of forgiving him, which I did, and would continue to do, regardless of whether or not he changed. But his maturation has been an added blessing, and we had a good conversation. We might play golf together next time.

I'm thankful at least two people seemed interested in my vocation. I don't think either of them are believers, so, though I didn't get to present the Gospel plan, I believe a seed was planted. One of them asked how I came up with my sermon ideas each week. I said that I listened to God, and He would tell me the subject and the text, then be guiding me as I prepared my notes. I'm thankful I got to share that God still speaks and that we can hear Him! That is a witness that He is a relational God!

I'm thankful that Friday night I got to see my high school team, the West Henderson Falcons, play a football game. I haven't seen a high school football game since we lived in Rockbridge County. Highland High School has never been able to field a football team because it is too small. Lauren's class included only seventeen students. It was a really good game! If I remember correctly, in the fourth quarter we were down 21 to 7. We got a touchdown, then recovered an onside kick, and scored another touchdown! The game went into overtime. We scored a touchdown, but our extra-point kick was blocked. Then the opponents scored a touchdown and the extra point was good. It was disappointing, but thrilling, for which I am thankful!

I'm very thankful that Thursday afternoon I got to visit my Uncle Tom and Aunt Betty Cochran, then have supper with them. As I said last month, Uncle Tom turned one hundred in August. Aunt Betty is ninety-three herself, and they have been married for seventy-three years! Uncle Tom is in really good shape. Aunt Betty has back pain, and has to use a cane, but, hey, she's ninety-three! And they are both still active in church. It was a wonderful visit.

Uncle Tom owns the farm that has been in the Cochran family for four generations. It is where my mom was born and raised. That is one of my favorite places in the world. I used to love to spend the night there with my cousin Steve. I'd help him with his chores, then we'd play in the hayloft.

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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:
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
Ron Mickens: (804) 241-7855
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

Pastor's Pen (continued)

I'm thankful that Uncle Tom did not sell the farm when he retired from dairying. A few weeks ago, a professional golf tournament was played on a course that is very near the farm. When they were first building the course, they offered to buy the farm, perhaps for a great amount of money. But Uncle Tom refused to sell. I'm thankful that his older son, David, has built a house on the property and, to my knowledge, intends to keep the farm intact.

I'm most thankful that mom and dad were both brought up in Christian homes. There is a strong Christian heritage in both the Cochran and the Davis families. Such influence makes a big difference. It was a privilege and a blessing when Uncle Tom asked me to return thanks before we ate supper. Thank you, Lord!

In Christ, Pastor Mark

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Nov 1	Goochland Cares – 1:30pm
Nov 9 – 11	BGAV Annual Meeting
Nov 11	Veteran's Day
Nov 15	WOM Meeting – 12pm
Nov 18	Last Wednesday Night Supper & Group Bible Study (will resume in January) – 6pm
Nov 19	Seniors Meeting/Luncheon – Gum Spring United Methodist – 11am
Nov 21	Mission Stitchers – Goshen Association office – 9am-2pm
Nov 29 – Dec 6	Week of Prayer of International Missions
Nov 29	Hanging of the Green & First Sunday of Advent – 11am
Nov 29	Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast – 8am

SPECIAL NOTE: **Breakfast with Santa will be Saturday, December 12 this year. Mark your calendars!**

Mission Opportunities: Together – Serving Others – Meeting Needs – Changing Lives

The success story of America is neighbor helping neighbor. Ronald Reagan

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, including white bags. **THIS MONTH'S EMPHASIS:** Cereal, soup, stew, canned pasta, crackers, tissues, detergent {dish and laundry} Drop off box is 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:** Flashlights and batteries, Ear buds, Rubix cubes, small journals. Collection box located next to the church office.

Goshen Mission Action Project
This month's emphasis is on the Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes. See the Samaritan's Purse brochure for suggested age appropriate items to be included in the boxes.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, His love endures forever. Psalm 136:1

Grateful for and blessed by your faithful support as together we meet the needs of others through our Mission Opportunities at Oakland.

A Heart of Thankfulness

"O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." — Psalm 107:1 (KJV)

As we go through our daily lives, it is easy to become so focused on our responsibilities, worries, and challenges that we forget to stop and give thanks for the many blessings God has given us. Thankfulness is more than simply saying "thank you." It is an attitude of the heart that recognizes God's goodness and faithfulness in every season of life.

We often thank God for the big blessings—our families, our health, our church, and the provision of our daily needs. But we should also remember to thank Him for the little things: a kind word from a friend, a beautiful sunrise, a helping hand when we need it, or the comfort of knowing He is always with us. Even during difficult times, we can be thankful that God hears our prayers, strengthens us, and never leaves us.

First Thessalonians 5:18 reminds us, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." This does not mean we must be thankful for every hardship, but that we can remain thankful through every circumstance because our hope rests in the Lord.

As a church family, may we cultivate hearts of gratitude—not just during the Thanksgiving season, but throughout the entire year. Let us express our thankfulness through prayer, encourage one another with kind words, and demonstrate God's love by serving those around us. When we recognize our blessings and share them with others, our thankfulness becomes a testimony of God's goodness.

May we never take His grace for granted, and may our lives reflect grateful hearts that bring honor and glory to Him.

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

Let's Celebrate!

BIRTHDAYS

Leonard Jones	Nov 2
Sally Hodges	Nov 3
Cassidy Hutchinson	Nov 5
Christy Wiltshire	Nov 6
Sandi Blair Eddy	Nov 7
Sam Pleasants	Nov 8
Loren Stanley	Nov 10
Deborah Mills	Nov 11
Amy Jarrell	Nov 11
Les Bradshaw	Nov 13
Pam Bradshaw	Nov 13
Bill Groome	Nov 18
JC Gallaher	Nov 19
Jennifer Dabney	Nov 19
Luke Parrish	Nov 21
Shane Lambert	Nov 23
Amanda Alston Cooper	Nov 23
Brenda Carrasco	Nov 23
Rose Corey	Nov 24
Christina England Hansen	Nov 24
Derek Blair	Nov 26
Vance Willis	Nov 27
Carolyn Grant	Nov 27
Shearin England	Nov 29
Stan Majka	Nov 30

ANNIVERSARIES

Eddie & Mary Bradshaw	Nov 10
Ron & Ann Taylor	Nov 17
Bill & Pat Groome	Nov 18
Grayson & Carolyn Grant	Nov 25

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

Ann Taylor	Nov 1
Ron Mickens	Nov 8
Ron Taylor	Nov 15
Bill Groome	Nov 22
Frank Smith	Nov 29

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 **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* **Goochland Cares Team** *1:30 pm*	2	3	4 **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*	5	6	7
8 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am*	9 **BGAV Annual Meeting**	10 **BGAV Annual Meeting**	11 **BGAV Annual Meeting** **Veteran's Day** **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*	12	13	14
15 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am* **Women on Mission** *12:30 pm*	16	17	18 **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*	19 **Seniors Luncheon** *11:00 am*	20	21 **Mission Stitchers** *9:00 am – 2:00 pm*
22 **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am*	23	24	25 **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm*	26 **Thanksgiving Day**	27	28
29 **Week of Prayer for International Missions** **Men & Women's Prayer Breakfast** *8:00 am – 9:30 am* **Sunday School** *9:45 am – 10:45 am* **Hanging of the Green – First Sunday of Advent** *11:00 am* **Worship Service** *11:00 am*	30 **Week of Prayer for International Missions**	Dec 1 **Week of Prayer for International Missions**	2 **Week of Prayer for International Missions** **Choir Practice** *5:00 pm*	3 **Week of Prayer for International Missions**	4 **Week of Prayer for International Missions**	5 **Week of Prayer for International Missions**

Scripture:

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:18

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Tyler Adams
The family of Thelma Atkins
Steve Alford
Scott Andrews
Beth Biles
Dennis Braswell
Charlie Childress
Richard Claty
Ronnie & Virginia Cook
Debbie Crowder
Debbie Cutchin
Roy Edwards
Taylor Ferguson
Carolyn Ferris
The family of Parker Forcke
Frances Gillend
April Grant
Robbie Green
Kathy Groome
Alex Guardino
Judy Gunter
Sandy Harper
Hallie Hicks
Stewart Hicks
Jeannie Hyatt
Angela Lewis
Joan Lloyd
Harry McClurg
Mary McCullough
Jessie Magana
Barbara Mayberry
Hazel Morgan
John Nunn
Susan Parker
Gerald & Mabel Pleasants
Sam Pleasants
Faith Powell
Casey Ralston
Frank Smith
Steve Smith
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

P.O. Box 99
Gum Spring, VA 23065

Church Office: 804-556-3550

www.Oakland-Baptist.com

Oakland
BAPTIST CHURCH